

Waldheim to take legal action on ban

VIENNA (R) — Austrian President Kurt Waldheim said Monday he would take legal action in response to last week's ban on his entry into the United States. At the same time, the Austrian government said it intends to establish a commission of historians to examine allegations about Dr. Waldheim's wartime activities. Speaking in an interview with Austrian radio, Dr. Waldheim said he would respond to these slanders through legal channels. "His lawyers in the United States and in Austria were investigating in what concrete form he could take legal action. The U.S. Justice Department placed formal restrictions on Dr. Waldheim's entry into the United States as a private person because of suspicions over his role with Hitler's army in World War II. Foreign Minister Alois Mock told a news conference a commission would be set up after consultations with Dr. Waldheim. Mr. Mock said the commission could also include foreign experts, if Dr. Waldheim approved them.

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Majali receives Mauritanian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali Monday received Mauritania's ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him bilateral relations and means of developing and enhancing them.

Khayyat meets Sudanese team

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat on Monday received Mr. Ahmad Al Mahdi, one of Sudan's religious leaders, and an accompanying delegation. Talks during the meeting centered on bilateral issues and Jordan's support for and help to Sudan to enable it to overcome its drought problems. Dr. Khayyat also explained to the delegation the present situation in the occupied West Bank and the recent developments in the regional and international fora.

Egypt seeks to boost cooperation with Jordan

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak Monday instructed his Prime Minister Atef Sedki to work towards enhancing cooperation between Jordan and Egypt, during the Joint Higher Jordanian Egyptian Committee meeting, which starts in Amman Tuesday (See story on page 3). President Mubarak's directives were issued at a meeting with Dr. Sedki, during which Dr. Sedki briefed him on the meeting's agenda. Dr. Sedki said that Tuesday's meeting is different from the previous meetings because it will assess Egypt's experience over the past two years. Dr. Sedki also said he will convey the greetings of President Mubarak to His Majesty King Hussein.

Iran seizes 7 Kuwaiti boats

KUWAIT (AP) — Iranian gunboats have seized seven Kuwaiti fishing boats which apparently strayed into Iranian waters in the northern reaches of the Gulf, shipping sources reported Monday. The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that this was the latest in a series of seizures by the Iranians in recent years. The Iranians usually hold the fishermen for a few days for investigation and then release them, the sources said. Kuwaiti authorities have repeatedly warned fishermen to stay within defined areas outside the Iran-Iraq war zone just to the north of the emirate.

Murphy to visit Gulf

WASHINGTON (AP) — Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy will travel to Iraq and other Gulf region nations to discuss the Iran-Iraq war and other issues, the State Department said Monday. Mr. Murphy will hold talks with heads of the Gulf Cooperation Council about the Gulf war and about matters concerning the region, said spokesman Charles Redman. Redman said Mr. Murphy would not visit any Middle Eastern countries other than the Gulf states during the trip. He said he did not have further details on the trip.

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Karami resigns citing cabinet failure to solve economic crisis

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Prime Minister Rashid Karami announced his resignation on Monday, citing his cabinet's failure to resolve a worsening economic crisis generated by 12 years of civil war.

"I hereby announce my resignation... I took this decision in the interest of the nation," Mr. Karami told reporters.

All Lebanese radio stations interrupted their programmes to broadcast Mr. Karami's statement.

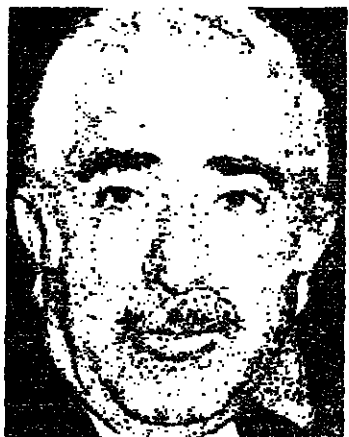
He did not say whether he would submit his resignation to President Amin Gemayel, as he is required to do under the constitution.

Constitutionally, the president would then decide whether to accept the resignation and name a new premier.

Mr. Karami said he decided to resign after his 10-man half-Christian, half-Muslim cabinet "failed to agree on any solution" to the nation's pressing economic crisis.

Mr. Karami's divided cabinet held its first meeting in seven months April 23 to deal with the nation's economic crisis as a general strike called by the 250,000-strong General Confederation of Labour (GCL) to protest soaring prices paralysed the country.

It adopted a series of proce-



Rashid Karami

dures to deal with the economic crisis. However, its decisions were rejected by the GCL and Christian leaders.

"The latest attempt [to agree on economic solutions] did not live long," Mr. Karami said.

Mr. Gemayel nominated Mr. Karami, 66, a veteran pro-Syrian politician, to his 10th premiership in 29 years in April 1984.

"I am convinced that all that is happening runs against the interest of the Lebanese and Leba-

non in general," Mr. Karami told reporters after attending a weekly security committee meeting.

There was no immediate reaction from President Gemayel, who has been boycotted by Mr. Karami and his Muslim cabinet colleagues since January 1986 when the president failed to endorse a Syrian-backed peace plan for Lebanon.

The April 23 cabinet meeting was followed by mutual recriminations among Christian and Muslim ministers and last Wednesday Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein abandoned his attempts to convene a second session.

In the last two weeks, the right-wing Christian Lebanese Forces militia has repeatedly demanded Mr. Karami's resignation, most recently in a fiery May Day speech by the militia's deputy leader, Karim Pakradouni.

Referring to calls for his resignation, Mr. Karami said: "When we look at all these views and suggestions... we find there can be no reconciliation between east and west (Beirut), especially after our latest attempt in the Mansour Palace, which did not last long."

He also alluded to Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt who has criticised him for approving a financial allocation for the Lebanese army, units of which confront PSP militiamen in hills near Beirut.

Khatib rejects reports of Syria-Iraq summit in Jordan

AMMAN (Agencies) — Information Minister Mohammad Al Khatib said Monday he knew nothing about reported secret talks between the Iraqi and Syrian presidents in Jordan.

"All these are press rumours, we know nothing about it," Mr. Khatib told Reuters.

The Washington Post, quoting what it called well-informed Israeli sources, said the talks between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein were held in a Jordanian border area last week immediately after Mr. Assad returned from a visit to the Soviet Union.

His Majesty King Hussein, in an attempt to end the Iran-Iraq war, has been trying to bring Iraq and Syria together.

Relations between Iraq and Syria, long-time ideological foes, worsened with Syrian support of Iran in the war, now in its seventh year.

The Kuwaiti daily Al Qabas quoted a high-ranking Saudi Arabian official as saying the Iraqi-Syrian meeting came after joint talks with King Hussein and Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah.

Al Qabas quoted the unnamed Saudi official as saying the two presidents had "a closed and secret meeting" in Jordan preceded by

(Continued on page 2)



KING HOSTS IFTAR: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday hosted an iftar banquet at the Hussein Youth City. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai, Cabinet members, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi and the senators, former prime ministers, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan

Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid, Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Sheikh Mohammad Mheilan, Islamic theologians, and heads of Arab and Muslim diplomatic missions in Amman. The King and those attending the iftar performed Al Maghreb prayers at the Youth City (Petra photo)

Thousands of settlers march through Jericho demanding more settlements

JERICHO, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Thousands of Jewish settlers and their supporters marched through this occupied Arab town on Monday to press demands for Jewish settlement throughout the occupied territories.

Most of the marchers were armed and guarded by hundreds of Israeli soldiers.

About 4,000 supporters of Gush Emunim, an extremist Jewish settlement movement, marched 12 kilometres through Jericho, considered the world's oldest city about 36 kilometres northeast of Jerusalem.

Many marchers were armed. Others carried Israeli flags or the yellow-and-black banners of Rabbi Meir Kahane's anti-Arab Kach Party.

Hundreds of Israeli soldiers were deployed throughout the city, some on foot, others in armoured personnel carriers with automatic weapons mounted on top. Monday was the 39th anniversary of the creation of Israel.

Jericho residents watched the march from their homes and the

sidewalks, but there were no clashes between the two groups.

"It's Ramadan and this is a Muslim town," remarked one resident, who said he was a civil servant and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity. "Everyone is fasting. Nobody wants to have trouble right now."

There are no Jewish settlements in Jericho which has a population of about 5,500, mostly Muslims.

Zohar Peled, 34, a Jewish tomato farmer who was tending fields outside the city, said he was not happy about the march.

"We have a beautiful relationship with the Arabs here," he said. "This kind of thing just makes for extremism on both sides. I think most Israeli Jews, given the choice between peace and land, would choose peace."

As Israel marked the anniversary of the Jewish state, a dispute over the proposed Mideast peace conference threatened to topple Prime Minister Shamir's coalition.

In an interview with Israel Radio, the right-wing Likud leader called on Labour Foreign

Minister Shimon Peres to back away from any move that could lead to early elections which he said the public did not want.

Mr. Shamir repeated his objections to a peace conference, but said: "Let us examine the proposals made to us. Let us look into them in depth — all aspects. Then we will decide if this obliges us to part or not."

Mr. Peres, who has been trying to arrange a peace conference, has threatened to pull his party out of the coalition government unless Mr. Shamir's Likud accepted international sponsorship of peace talks.

He informed Mr. Shamir on Sunday he would raise the issue of a conference at Wednesday's meeting of the 10-man "inner cabinet." The group decides key policy issues.

"Let us check the price and then we will decide if we have to part or not," the prime minister said.

"What is the hurry?" he asked. "I do not want elections and see no justification for them at this time."

Moscow expects quick missile pact

GENEVA (R) — Moscow expects U.S. and Soviet arms negotiators to forge a draft treaty scrapping all medium and shorter-range "Euromissiles" during their present round of talks, Soviet chief negotiator Yury Vorontsov said Monday.

"I expect a treaty, a fully-fledged treaty," Mr. Vorontsov, who is also first deputy foreign minister, said on arrival at Geneva.

In another development, U.S. chief negotiator Max Kampelman told reporters the American delegation would soon present a draft treaty calling for "drastic," 50 per cent cuts in long-range nuclear missiles.

Such deep cuts in long-range

learn warheads on each side, were a top priority for the United States and would "enhance the security of both sides," he said.

U.S. and Soviet negotiators started their eighth round of talks on medium and shorter-range missiles on April 23.

Western diplomats following the present talks have described them as the "make-or-break" round for striking a deal on sharp cuts in medium and shorter-range missiles.

President Ronald Reagan's administration leaves office in January 1989 and attention in the United States for much of next year will be focussed on the presidential election campaign rather than arms control, the diplomats felt.

Katyushas land in Galilee

TEL AVIV (AP) — Guerrillas fired rockets from Lebanon into northern Israel but there were no injuries or damages, the Israeli army said Monday.

Military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets were fired into the western Galilee district Sunday evening and landed in a forest area.

The military official would not say how many rockets were fired or where exactly they hit the ground.

The officials said the army and Israeli settlements along the border with Lebanon were placed on high alert after the attacks.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has blamed Palestinian commandos for many of the recent rocket attacks against the north and Israel has stepped up its air attacks in Lebanon in response.

Israeli Chief of Staff General Dan Shomron says Palestinian commandos rather than the pro-Iranian Hizbollah organisation are Israel's main enemy in Lebanon.

Israel has recently stepped up its air raids against Palestinians in refugee camps in South Lebanon.

Hizbollah has carried out human wave assaults against positions manned by Israeli troops and the "South Lebanon Army" (SLA) militia. Israeli military officials say the group sends a film crew along to document the attacks.

The Israelis say about 25 Hizbollah fighters were killed in a clash with their troops two weeks ago inside Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

Israel established the buffer area after it pulled the bulk of its forces out of Lebanon in 1985. U.S. officials say about 1,000 Israeli troops are still deployed north of the border.

Moroccan and Algerian leaders hold summit under Saudi aegis

OUJDA, Morocco (Agencies) — Talks on the Western Sahara conflict between King Hassan of Morocco and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid under the auspices of Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ended after two sessions Monday, Algeria's News Agency (APS) said.

The meeting took place on the Algerian-Moroccan border at Akid Lofti, near Oujda, the site of a previous meeting between King Hassan and Mr. Benjedid four years ago.

King Fahd, who had flown in Sunday night, left Algeria Monday night, APS reported.

It said discussions centred on the Western Sahara conflict between Morocco and Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas but like the Moroccan news agency MAP disclosed no details. Foreign reporters were not allowed in the vicinity.

The Saudi monarch, keen to re-unite Arab ranks ahead of an Arab summit expected later this year, hopes to ease tensions between the two North African neighbours, diplomats said.

King Fahd had already been instrumental in bringing the two leaders together in 1983. They then attempted to normalise rela-

tions, but failed to settle differences over the Western Sahara.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Sunday King Fahd was making "continued intensive efforts... to bring together Arab brethren and narrow the gap in views for serving the interests of the Arab Nation."

Relations between Algeria and Morocco were severely strained when heavy fighting flared up again in the Western Sahara in February. At that time Morocco started building new defence lines which now stretch to the territory's southern border near the Mauritania port of Nouadhibou.

Tension subsided after King Fahd visited both Algeria and Morocco in March, diplomats said.

Diplomatic sources said French President Francois Mitterrand, who visited president Benjedid in Algiers in March and then conferred with King Hassan in Rabat in April, may also have played a role in efforts to end the dispute.

The meeting Monday followed the recent completion of the final section of Morocco's 2,400-kilometre long defensive wall of rock and sand which may have prompted Benjedid to seek the meeting. Hardliners in the Alge-

rian government have opposed such talks for years, maintaining that any settlement in the dispute must be directly between Morocco and the Polisario.

A statement issued by the Polisario in Paris repeated the rebel demand for direct dialogue with Morocco leading to a referendum on self-rule in the Western Sahara.

The Polisario statement said that Morocco's recent activities show the government has "opted for a military solution" rather than a diplomatic one and that such actions expose "the whole region to a general conflagration." The statement also accused Saudi Arabia of being Morocco's chief source of arms used in the conflict.

However, the Polisario statement did not oppose a meeting between the three leaders.

Morocco has said it would hold a self-determination referendum in the Western Sahara, but has rejected as unrealistic demands by the Polisario that the Moroccans in the territory, including civil servants and settlers, should withdraw first.

President Benjedid was keeping his regional allies informed about the meeting, APS said.

Hart denies report that he cheated on his wife

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A spokesman for Democratic presidential candidate Gary Hart on Monday denied a newspaper report that the former Colorado senator spent much of the weekend with a young woman other than his wife.

"Recent accusations about Senator Hart's personal life are preposterous and inaccurate in their entirety," campaign manager Bill Dixon said in a statement issued from Mr. Hart's Denver campaign headquarters.

"Scrutiny and questions of character are one thing character assassination is entirely another," Mr. Dixon said in response to a Miami Herald report that Mr. Hart and a young woman identified as Donna Rice of Miami spent Friday night and much of Saturday alone in Mr. Hart's Washington residence.

The newspaper quoted Mr. Hart as denying that the woman had spent the night in his house.

Mr. Hart's wife Lee, to whom he has been married for 28 years, was in Colorado at the time. The

Harts have been separated on two occasions.

Mr. Hart, the early favourite for the Democratic Party's 1988 presidential nomination, has been dogged by questions about his character, including allegations that he has had extramarital affairs.

The 50-year old politician told Miami Herald reporters watching his Washington residence: "I have no personal relationship with the individual you are following."

But Mr. Hart told the newspaper he had phoned the woman on several occasions as he campaigned round the country, and he confirmed that Ms. Rice — described as being in her late 20s — visited him on Friday night, the Herald said.

Mr. Hart attended a dinner Friday night at the nearby home of friend William Broadhurst, Hart spokesman Kevin Sweeney said, with Ms. Rice and her friend Lynn Armandt. Mr. Broadhurst said Ms. Rice and Ms. Armandt spent the night at his Capitol Hill



Gary Hart

house. Mr. Dixon told the New York Times that Mr. Hart, Mr. Broadhurst and the two women had walked to Mr. Hart's nearby townhouse after dinner to see some renovation work he was having done and that Mr. Broadhurst, Ms. Rice and Ms. Armandt left shortly afterward.

Mr. Broadhurst said in an interview in Monday's Herald that he had planned to hire Ms.

Armandt as "coordinator" of social events at his townhouse, and that she declined to come to his house for an interview unless she could bring Ms. Rice.

Mr. Hart described Ms. Rice as "a friend of a friend of mine" who had come to Washington to visit friends of hers, the Herald said.

Dixon condemned the methods used by the Herald.

"The system, when reduced to hiding in bushes, peeking in windows and personal harassment, has clearly run amok," he said. "Those who cover politics have some duty of self-restraint. Here the boundaries of journalistic ethics have clearly been crossed."

Mr. Dixon told reporters that Mr. Hart met Ms. Rice casually at two separate parties this year. It is the second time Mr. Hart has been sidetracked by questions about his personal life.

On April 14, responding to reports that supporters of other candidates were circulating rumours about his alleged sexual affairs, Mr. Hart seemed to point

the finger at his foes by suggesting the real story was the source of the gossip.

Mr. Hart has hoped to run a campaign based on ideas, with little attention given to personality. But political analysts say he must first erase doubts about his character that left voters uneasy about him during his 1984 presidential campaign.

Many voters seemed perturbed by discrepancies that emerged in the 1984 campaign over his age, which official biographies had listed as a year lower than it is, and his account of why he changed his name from Hartpence in 1961.

In an interview published in the New York Times on Sunday, Mr. Hart responded to the womanising question by challenging reporters to "follow me around."

"I'm serious. If anybody wants to put a tail on me, go ahead. They'd be very bored," he said. A spokesman for the Miami Herald noted the challenge in defending his publication's report.

Hamzeh praises efforts of WHO in health care

GENEVA (Petra) — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said here on Monday that the meetings, seminars and conferences organized by the World Health Organisation (WHO) have contributed significantly to improving health services in many countries. These countries are trying to achieve the "Health for All by the Year 2000" goal set by WHO.

Addressing the meetings of the World Health Assembly (WHA) 40th session which began here Monday, Dr. Hamzeh, who is also the WHO president for the present term, added that the amount of progress made by many countries, including Jordan, in their health services, was a clear indication of the sound plans and programmes drawn up for this goal.

Dr. Hamzeh also expressed his hope that the WHO member countries will continue their march to achieve the WHO message of cooperation among world's peoples for a decent, healthy life.

The WHO's Mexico conference last September came up with several recommendations for solving the problem of imbalance in the distribution of health personnel, the minister added. He also reviewed the accomplishments of the WHO in its previous session and thanked the member countries for their fruitful efforts.

During their two-week meeting, delegates of the member countries will discuss the assembly's activities during the last year as well as its future plans and programmes. A number of reports on health achievements in various countries will also be discussed.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tunisian commercial day to open

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al Majali, the Tunisian commercial days will be officially opened at the Amman Development Corporation premises on Wednesday, May 6, 1987. Attending the official opening ceremony will be the Tunisian Ambassador to Jordan Said Ibn Mustafa and Director General of the Tunisian Export Promotion Centre Hussein Bu Zaid.

Children's Village stamps to be issued

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Communications has decided to issue commemorative stamps marking the official opening of the SOS Children's Village of Amman on May 7 under the patronage of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor. The SOS Children's Village houses orphans and abandoned children who are cared for by women with household experience serving as "mothers" to the children. The village, situated near the town of Tareq, west of Amman, comprises nine family houses, a director's house, a bakery, a supermarket, a staff house, a guest house and a kindergarten which opened its doors in September last year.

Refinery records 13% increase in sales

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company (JPRC) sold 839,933 tonnes of oil products in the first quarter of 1987, registering 13 per cent increase over sales made in the same period of last year. A JPRC spokesman said that these amounts include a 10 per cent increase in liquid gas, 26 per cent of kerosene, 31 per cent of diesel oil and seven per cent of fuel oil.

Another shipment of cement to Egypt

AQABA (Petra) — A ship carrying 22,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement left here for Egypt on Saturday. This brings to 232,000 tonnes, the quantity of cement so far exported to Egypt under the trade agreement concluded between both countries in May 1986. The agreement provided for exporting 1 million tonnes of cement to Egypt.

Potash head discusses Korean cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Arab Potash Company (APC) Ali Nsour Monday met with the Korean Ambassador to Jordan Dong Soon Park and discussed with him prospects for exporting Jordanian potash to the Korean Fertilisers Companies. Korea's imports of Jordanian potash represented 17 per cent of its total imports of potash.

Municipality's team monitors health standards

AMMAN (Petra) — Greater Amman Municipality health teams have destroyed about 71 tonnes of foodstuffs because they are not suitable for human consumption, Amman Municipality sources said on Monday. The sources added that the municipality's health teams have recently intensified their inspection campaigns of the shops and supermarkets within the municipality's boundaries.

Man sentenced for hashish dealing

AMMAN (Petra) — The military court has sentenced Abdul Hamid Mohammad Hosni to five years imprisonment for dealing in hashish. The general military governor endorsed the sentence.

Mu'ta University accepting applications

KARAK (Petra) — Mu'ta University in Karak will start receiving applications this Saturday for study at the university, through the mail, the university's admission department announced. Registration will run until May 18 and in the following specialisations: Arabic and English languages, computers, chemistry, physics, mathematics, electrical and mechanical engineering, administrative sciences and law. The university provides accommodation, clothes and food in addition to a monthly salary of JD 60 for each student during the study period.

Haj Hassan presides over VTC meeting on education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Monday presided over a meeting of the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) board of directors to discuss a number of issues related to education policy in Jordan.

The board decided to authorise VTC Director General Munther Masri to address the Prime Ministry on the proposals related to vocational education policy in Jordan. The proposals deal with: organising compulsory education, training of vocational instructors, and coordinating efforts in education, vocational training and employment.

Ministry issues calendar for new academic year

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Monday issued new regulations specifying dates for the start of the 1987-88 school year, for school examinations, including the make-up examination for the current year, and for school holidays and vacations.

Under the new regulations teachers will report to work on Aug. 26 to prepare programmes, and to arrange to receive students. The students are due at schools on Sept. 2 to pay the school fees and pick up their books. Official opening of schools is on Sept. 5, the regulations said. Make-up examination for the current scholastic year will be held on Aug. 31, with the exception of first secondary class students, vocational branches, who will be required to take the examination on July 21.

Mid first semester examinations will be held on Nov. 7, 1987, while the first semester holiday starts on Feb. 1, according to the new regulations. Final term examinations will be held on May 24, the regulations said.

Challenger centre head stresses educational benefits for Jordan

By Narmeen Murad
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — School children will get the opportunity of receiving the latest in space education beginning next scholastic year following the establishment of the Challenger Centre for Space Science Education. The centre was named after the U.S. space shuttle Challenger, whose crew died in a tragic accident last year.

Jordan will contribute to the establishment of the centre by offering a direct grant, Dr. June Scobee, chairman of the board of the Challenger centre, told the Jordan Times Monday. She said Jordan could become the first country, except the U.S., to make such a contribution.

"If Jordan does take advantage of the space education centre and its programmes," Dr. Scobee said, "teachers in Jordan can expect to start receiving updated, translated and very current information available to the centre." Dr. Scobee said that these information packets will assist teachers in teaching science, math and communication skills, using innovative methods.

On Sunday, the Challenger delegation met with Minister of Education Thounqan Al Hindawi, who said that Jordan was interested in helping them establish a space education centre in the

United States. Dr. Ted Anders, vice president of the Challenger centre, said that the minister informed him that the ministry would study whether such cooperation would be effective in Jordan, and that Jordan will be sending two representatives to the centre in Washington, D.C., to evaluate the centre.

According to Dr. Scobee, His Majesty King Hussein "has expressed interest in the programme and will probably be meeting with us sometime during this visit."

Dr. Scobee added that Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, president of the University of Jordan, discussed the function of the proposed centre with the delegation and expressed interest in establishing the first cooperation centre in Jordan at the University.

"Teachers and students could use the learning centre at the university until such a time when other centres could be established in schools in Jordan," Dr. Scobee said.

The centre has a scholarship programme for "outstanding" students and their teachers, which involves a one-week visit to the centre in Washington where the scholarship winners would work together with centre experts on "real-world" problems during a simulated space flight.

The programme, which is expected to start this year, will be introduced to sixth grade students in the United States and participating countries and gradually to students from all age groups including university students.

The centre will be experimenting with ways to improve medicine, agriculture, the environment, weather prediction, and pharmaceuticals.

According to Dr. Anders, "this programme will help make science and technology easy to learn by putting them in an exciting context."

A campaign to raise a \$50 million capital for the centre began in October 1986, by the Challenger crew's families as a memorial to honour the Challenger crew.

According to Dr. Anders, half of the \$50 million will go towards building the Challenger centre and the rest will be used to pay for maintenance, staff and other operating expenses.

The programme will be implemented first in Washington, D.C., then at the Johnson Space Centre, and gradually at regional science centres across the U.S.

"We wanted to give something to our country and to the world," Dr. Scobee, whose husband was the commander of the Challenger, said. "We have lost the challenge but not the challenge to continue their mission."

Joint Jordan-Egypt panel opens discussions today on cooperation

AMMAN (Agencies) — The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee opens its sixth meeting in Amman today to review cooperation between the two countries in economic, trade, industrial, agricultural, electricity, information, cultural, tourist, transport and telecommunications fields.

The committee's sessions are to be chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Egyptian counterpart, Dr. Ataf Sedki, due here today at the head of Egypt's delegation to the three-day meeting.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said that the sixth meeting was a follow-up to the deliberations held in Cairo in October 1986 by the same committee chaired by the two prime ministers. The joint committee has undertaken a number of steps to promote bilateral cooperation in all fields.

According to Petra, the two sides decided to go ahead with plans for forming a Jordanian-Egyptian investment and development company, and a number of food-producing companies.

According to Reuters news agency, the two countries signed a \$110 million pact last year for the export of 750,000 tonnes of surplus cement and other goods to Egypt in exchange for 20,000 tonnes of Egyptian rice and other commodities.

They have also agreed to establish, jointly with Iraq, a maritime transport company capitalised at \$6 million to handle goods and passenger traffic between Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba and Nuweiba in southern Sinai.

There have been discussions on linking the Jordanian and Egyptian electricity grids and on a

microwave project aimed at connecting the Egyptian, Jordanian and Saudi Arabian telephone and television networks.

On agricultural cooperation, according to Petra, both parties agreed to pursue cooperation in agronomy, veterinary sciences, and in the use of pesticides.

In the cultural area, both parties agreed to allocate a number of seats to Jordanian students in Egyptian institutions and universities. In tourism, the committee decided to encourage tourist investments and to set up joint projects. In the field of telecommunications, the two countries agreed to go ahead with the microwave project between Amman, Aqaba and Egypt.

Both sides agreed to exchange radio and TV programmes and to lay down new foundations for information cooperation.

Authority plans new strategy to reverse gradual decline in incoming tourists

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tourism to Jordan, which once accounted for as much as 18 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP), has been steadily declining since the beginning of the current decade as a result of domestic, regional and international factors.

Prompt measures should be adopted to reactivate the tourism industry and Jordan Tourism Authority (TA) has plans to overhaul and breathe life into this sector, according to TA Director General Nasri Atallah, whose department has just prepared a detailed comparative study on tourism during the past few years.

The study indicated that on average the number of incoming American and European tourists has gradually declined by 40 per cent over the past six years; from 203,010 in 1980 down to 121,480 last year.

Mr. Atallah noted that the two sharpest declines in the number of incoming American tourists were registered in 1982 and 1985. Citing political uncertainties in the region, he said the unforeseen decrease could well be attributed to the 1982 Israeli invasion of South Lebanon and the political turmoil in the region which was followed by international terrorist incidents in 1985.

More than 90 per cent of western tourists usually arrive in the country on pilgrimage tours and in general they stay only a night or two before they cross the River Jordan to the occupied territories. The TA, Mr. Atallah said, has been active in providing incentives for pilgrims in an effort to encourage them to extend their stay in the Kingdom. The provision of special accommodation and catering rates, touristic programmes and other incentives were contemplated but little was done, he added.

The director of tourism said that Aqaba is becoming a dead city and that in an effort to reactivate tourism his department, in cooperation with the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ) was working to market Aqaba abroad with a completely different image. RJ in coordination with local and foreign travel agents, will soon introduce direct

charter flights from London and Paris as well as one-day cruise trips to the port city, he explained.

This, however, would mean offering rock bottom prices as a motivation for western tourists while maintaining a higher standard of services, a well-informed source commented. On the other hand in the long run, this would promote tourism to Aqaba, he told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Atallah said that his department has been urging owners

of tourist facilities in Aqaba to provide a lively, active and entertaining night life with a view to attracting tourists.

According to Mr. Atallah, the number of incoming Arab tourists registered a gradual increase in 1986 over that in 1980. He noted that there was a substantial increase in the number of Arab tourists in 1985 following the inauguration of the Aqaba-Nuweiba ferry link connecting the Kingdom with Egypt's Sinai peninsula.

Roman reservoir at Jiza hides grandeur in simple setting

Text and Photographs
By Josephine Zamaniri

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Roman ruins like Byzantine mosaics are scattered across west Jordan; none, however, is stranger than the Roman reservoir of Jiza. The gigantic structure has a capacity to hold 23 million gallons of water, according to Fr. Eugene Hoed's book, A Guide to Jordan. Surprisingly modern in its simple setting and construction, the reservoir is trapped in a valley between two low hills, and blends admirably with the desert landscape. The dam is easily missed by passersby who usually consider it as a relatively new structure. Actually, the dam is probably 2000 years old.

The reservoir walls are constructed from gigantic rectangular

blocks of stone. Hundreds of them no doubt were quarried from the nearby hills and hauled to the dam site. The walls are thick and sturdy, rising around 15 feet above the spring water level. The dam must originally have had a fine walkway around its parameters; however, it is now overgrown with yellow summer flowers. At one corner of the reservoir, a stairway leads down from the ground level into the water below, possibly securing access to the water in dry times.

A small access dam to the right is connected with the major one by three spillways, gracefully cut out of the surrounding rock. Now, the little reservoir is unused and overgrown with grass and spring flowers. The dam must have presented a wonderful sight to the Roman legions marching southward. A small well not far from the reservoir probably

Women work to increase influence in election process

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian women are aiming for a high profile in the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

Their encouraging performance during the 1984 by-elections is expected to receive a substantial push this year as the General Federation of Jordanian Women launches its campaign for more active participation in voting by women.

Haifa Bashir, head of the federation as well as the Electoral Education Committee, told the Jordan Times the society was planning a media campaign to educate women about their constitutional rights to vote as well as nominate themselves for candidacies.

"Of course there will be women candidates" in the forthcoming elections, Mrs. Bashir said responding to questions. "The federation will also be proposing names." She did not elaborate on the names.

The Federation which embraces over 15,000 members all over the Kingdom, is urging all concerned societies and organisations to cooperate towards the

goal of encouraging women to practice their voting rights and towards raising their political awareness.

There will be election slogans published by the federation in local newspapers urging women to vote. "Your participation is an act of challenge you should not give up," one slogan says.

Mrs. Bashir says that "this year we will put all our weight behind women issues. We are more concerned with the elections... this year," she added, "it is more serious."

The federation's management board met on Monday during which they discussed ways to achieve more participation by women in public life.

Laila Sharaf, former information minister, told the meeting that the federation's efforts "is considered a qualitative jump, from groundwork to effective and positive action."

During the meeting, an agreement was reached to form a



Haifa Bashir, subcommittee to establish a political strategy towards urging women to exercise their political rights.

At this stage, the federation is focusing its campaign on voter registration, which opened on Sunday for two weeks at 700 voter registration centres all over the Kingdom.

Members of the federation will be meeting with women in centres in all governorates and developing means to encourage voter registration and a greater participation of women in the electoral process.

Dajani underscores need for road safety to mark Int'l Traffic Day

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan along with other countries of the world Monday marked International Traffic Day and, along with Arab countries, Arab Traffic Week. Addressing a celebration held at the Royal Cultural Centre, Interior Minister Rajai Dajani said that the dangers of road accidents threaten the well-being of society.

He added that the ministry, realising its role in this field, has updated all laws and legislations to enhance traffic safety.

Mr. Dajani also noted the concerned departments' interest in increasing patrols on all roads. Studies, he pointed out, have revealed that speed, non-observance of traffic priorities, as well as the poor traffic awareness, were the major causes of road accidents.

Mr. Dajani also called for more cooperation among all parties concerned to achieve proper and full traffic awareness that would be of help to drivers and pedestrians, as well as save money, and alleviate suffering.

Public Security Department (PSD) Acting Director Major General Sami Al Saket reviewed the department's efforts in facing traffic problems and said that new plans have been adopted to improve the skills and standards of those working in the traffic sector. Maj. Gen. Saket also pointed out that all necessary measures have been taken to reduce road accidents and that there were attempts to enact a special penal code for traffic violations. Chairman of the Jordan Society for the Prevention of Road Accidents (JSPRA), Dr. Zuhair Mallas, also spoke about the negative impacts of road accidents. He expressed the society's full readiness for close and constructive cooperation with all institutions concerned to curb road accidents.

The minister later presented cups and prizes to a number of officials, organisations, policemen and citizens. On this occasion, Mr. Dajani also opened an exhibition of children's paintings which depicts the importance of traffic safety and warns against road accidents.

Number of accidents dropped

Recent statistics published in Jordan revealed that in 1985 22 persons died in road accidents for every 10,000 cars on the roads; that number dropped to 16 deaths out of 10,000 cars in 1986.

The total number of road accidents in the Kingdom was 13,701 in 1986, resulting in 362 deaths and 7,539 injuries, while in 1985 there were 524 deaths.

Brig. Ahmad Abul Saoud, assistant director general of the Public Security Department (PSD) for traffic affairs, has

formed a number of committees to help spread awareness among the members of the public about safety on roads through various campaigns that involve publications, pamphlets, radio and television programmes.

According to Brig. Abul Saoud, a subcommittee on roads will discuss ways of marking dangerous spots and bends along roads in the Kingdom, especially places where recent accidents have occurred.

Brig. Abul Saoud said that the PSD is increasing traffic patrols in a bid to deter motorists from speeding, overtaking in an improper manner, or not staying within proper lanes. Patrol units, he said, will continue to check vehicles' road worthiness. He also cautioned drivers to abide by traffic regulations. All these measures, he said, are designed to stem the spread of road accidents.

New booklet offers timely facts on accommodations

AMMAN (J.T.) — In its efforts to encourage tourism in Jordan and highlight the country's attractions, the Jordan Hotels Association (JHA) has recently published a booklet which provides both tourists and nationals with useful information about hotels, rest houses, and pensions in the Kingdom.

The 32-page illustrated Jordan Hotels Directory is the first English language guidebook of its kind issued by the JHA. It abounds with the most up-to-date information about 34 hotels found in Amman, Aqaba, Petra, Irbid and Azraq, in addition to nine rest houses dotting various parts of the country.

This valuable booklet is a

source of information for tourists seeking the services of three-star, four-star and five-star hotels, carefully and attractively presented in alphabetical order. Information is provided on the number and type of rooms in each hotel, services and facilities offered together with telephone, telex and post office box numbers.

An introduction to the booklet gives an interesting description of the ancient and archaeological sites and other tourist attractions, with special attention to the features of Amman, the Roman ruins of Jerash, the Nabataean city of Petra, the desert castles of Jordan and the winter resort of Aqaba.



The pilgrim station, once a refreshing stop for weary travellers, is now in ruins. The walls, pictured here, have been collected from the surrounding areas.

various chambers have been plastered with a mixture of mud and straw, giving a smooth finish to the rough stone texture. Very little of the plastering remains, however.

The Arab fort still is an imposing high building used by the Jordanian Army. It rises majestically from the hillside and overlooks the Roman reservoir. Its impressive structure — stone upon stone rarely broken by windows — gives the fort, with its large two or three story barracks, the appearance of a medieval fortress.

The fort has a place in Jordan's history. In 1840, it was the site of a pitched battle between the Bani Sakhr tribe and the forces of Ibrahim Pasha.

The modern traveller, speeding through Jiza, would comprehend little of the historic significance of

the sleepy village. Yet, the little town is a vital link in the chain of the region's history. Its waters have quenched the thirst of the earliest traders who moved with the great camel caravans carrying on the world's first trade in luxuries. The placid waters of the dam provided Rome's great armies with the refreshment they needed to conquer lands, and create the mightiest empire ever known.

Undoubtedly, the many armies that crossed the Levant praised Roman expertise which created this reservoir of water in the middle of the desert. The pilgrims, too, from the northern Islamic countries, who made the journey through Jordan on the way to Mecca, must have thanked the Romans for creating the luxury of such a body of water.



The Roman reservoir at Jiza is easily missed by tourists. Yet, it is probably over 2000 years old and still holds 23 million gallons of water.

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Women, get up and go

THE General Federation of Jordanian Women's (GFJW) announcement yesterday of initiating an intensive media campaign to educate women here about their constitutional and political rights in anticipation of the expected general parliamentary elections deserves all our support and respect.

We see this as a positive contribution for the benefit of women in general and the society and country at large. In fact, the federation's decision to formulate an action plan for the forthcoming election is an indication of the determination to add up to the already encouraging performance during the 1984 by-elections and the pioneering initiatives taken by two other ladies who ran for municipal elections in Jordan recently. It also means that resolutions of previous seminars on the importance of allowing women to assume a larger role in the Kingdom's socio-economic and political life have now actually been strongly supported by the federation which embraces over 15,000 members all over Jordan.

If the federation's drive for more active participation by women in the country's public life — be it through raising women's awareness of their constitutional and political awareness or in urging them to stand for elections or supporting potential women candidates — then this means a big step forward in bringing women-related issues to the forefront at the legislative level. This step in itself should enhance our women's role at the decision-making level and should mean more weight behind any of their future schemes.

Indeed, a higher profile for women in our public life is long overdue. We simply cannot ignore the role that the other half of the population can play in the nation-building process. It is now that women have to grasp such an opportunity and put their own house in order to move forward all the time. Their action plan should focus on reaching both the educated and uneducated women in the Kingdom, with the final net stopping at merely winning attention during vote registration and actual elections.

Promoting women issues and causes is a goal for all times and places to work at and achieve. The time has come for our women to throw all their weight behind causes as good as getting registered for vote-casting and for electing and getting elected to public offices.

It is simply unacceptable for men alone to sit and take decisions that shape the lives of both men and women without the latter taking part in the formulation of these decisions. And it is in this context that our blessings and full support go to the federation's new initiative, which we should all view as a qualitative jump from stereotyped work and paying lip service to important issues to effective and fruitful action.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Jordan reaffirms position

THE past few weeks witnessed intensified campaigns for convening the international Middle East peace conference and for realising the objectives which such conference must achieve. Those who followed up the campaign and heard statements by Israeli leaders must have noticed that Israel has been keen on efforts designed to distort the idea of the conference and render it void of its real meaning. The Israelis have been striving to hold a ceremonial conference that can achieve nothing. In reply, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai referred to King Hussein's efforts which, he said, have succeeded in gaining support from various world nations to the idea of the conference. What Jordan aims to achieve is a conference where the concerned parties can reach a lasting solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 338 and 242, and find a lasting settlement to the Palestine problem which is the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The conference should renounce all forms of violence and acts of terrorism carried out by states or individuals. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, said that the PLO should be invited to attend the conference as a basic party, directly involved in the future of the land and people of Palestine. Israel has been laying obstacles in the path of a settlement and the proposed international conference and in that context has been fabricating lies about agreements and contacts with Jordan, a ploy it hopes will serve its own ambitions and objectives.

Al Dustour: Rifai denies allegations

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai made Jordan's position clear with regard to the proposed international conference and vis-a-vis false rumours circulated by Israel about Jordan's policies. Mr. Rifai categorically denied reports and allegations about Jordan's contacts with Israel and said that Jordan has been striving over the past two years for convening this conference under United Nations auspices. He said that an international conference should be held to implement Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which would find a solution for the Palestine problem and end the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr. Rifai said that Jordan is committed to its principles and its stand with regard to the international conference and there has been no change in that stand. He said that Israel's propaganda media and allegations can do nothing to change this stand though such propaganda is aimed at misleading world public opinion. Despite the fact that the majority of world nations are unanimous about holding such a conference the Israelis continue to reject its idea.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel leads disinformation campaign

IT is not difficult for anybody to discover for himself that Zionism was behind the current information campaign in certain Western media against Jordan. The reports which Western and foreign media circulated about Jordan's contacts and agreements with Israel are totally baseless as Prime Minister Zaid Rifai confirmed in his statement yesterday. These propaganda campaigns are designed to undermine Jordan's attempts to convene an international conference and achieve peace which conform to the resolutions of the Arab summit in Fez and which is designed to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions. As is usual for Israel, it leashed its media campaigns against Jordan with the hope of obstructing the current efforts for reaching a settlement and at the same time distorting Jordan's image and causing splits within Arab ranks. Israel described Jordan's suspension of its political coordination with the PLO leadership as a departure from Arab summit resolutions and therefore could indicate a change in this country's Middle East position.

Record of Washington's Iran-contra scandal is complex

By Rodney Pinder
 Reuter

WASHINGTON — Much already is known about the arms-for-Iran, cash-for-contra scandal that plunged President Reagan into his biggest crisis. Details of the web of intrigue spun over the Americas, Europe and the Middle East have emerged from a Tower Commission report to Reagan in February, a Senate intelligence committee report in January and statements by participants. But hitherto, the two White House officials believed to know the most about the secret operation to free six U.S. hostages in Lebanon — former national security adviser John Poindexter and aide Oliver North — have been silent.

They are expected to testify starting in June, under grants of immunity from prosecution, at joint House-Senate Iran-contra hearings scheduled to open on May 5.

The following chronology has been compiled from the Tower report, the Senate account, news leaks, statements by principals and testimony before congressional investigators:

Aug. 31, 1984: President Reagan's national security adviser, Robert McFarlane, asks government agencies to reassess policy toward Iran. Relations were severed and an arms embargo imposed as a result of the hostage crisis of 1979-81 when 52 Americans were held in Tehran.

March 16: North drafts plan to support contra rebels, who seek the overthrow of Nicaragua's Sandinista government, with private funds during a congressional ban on U.S. military assistance.

June 17: McFarlane proposes to Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger and Secretary of State George Shultz that Iran be provided with war material. They reject the suggestion.

Mid-July: Reagan, in a hospital for abdominal surgery, authorises McFarlane to open contacts with Iran.

August: Reagan verbally approves weapons sales through Israel, according to McFarlane

and to president's original comment to investigators. Reagan now says he cannot remember.

Aug. 30: Israel sends Iran 100 U.S. Tow anti-tank missiles. Sept. 14: Israel sends 408 Tows, U.S. hostage Rev. Benjamin Weir freed.

Nov. 25: 18 U.S. Hawk anti-aircraft missiles delivered to Iran aboard a plane owned by a CIA front company.

Dec. 4: McFarlane resigns for personal reasons. Replaced by his deputy, Vice-Admiral John Poindexter.

Late 1985: Syria tells United States that hostage CIA man William Buckley has been tortured and killed by kidnappers.

Jan. 6: Reagan signs order authorising weapons shipments. Tells Tower Commission he did not remember doing so.

Jan. 17: Reagan signs revised secret order for arms sales. Late January: North offers Iran intelligence on Iraqi positions in war with Iran. CIA objections overruled by NSC.

Feb. 15-27: First shipment of arms from America's own stocks 1,000 Tows are despatched via Israel.

April 4: North memo says \$12 million of arms-sale profits to be used for contras.

Spring: Contras resume receiving guns and other supplies. Published reports link American businessman and an associate of North, former air force General Richard Secord, who has since agreed to testify before congressional hearings without immunity.

April 17: Hostage Peter Kilburn killed.

May 6: State Department says,

"The U.S. government will make no concessions to terrorists."

May 25-28: McFarlane and North visit Tehran aboard a plane carrying Hawk spare parts and gifts including a kosher chocolate cake baked in Israel. Iran keeps the parts, does not deliver the hostages. Airport guards eat the cake.

June 11: Poindexter tells North that Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams had asked the Southeast Asian sultanate of Brunei to donate money to contras.

July 26: Rev. Lawrence Jenco released in Lebanon. North says this a result of the mission to Tehran.

Aug. 3: United States send Iran more Hawk spares.

Sept. 9: American Frank Reed taken hostage in Lebanon.

Sept. 12: American Joseph Cippio kidnapped in Lebanon.

Oct. 3: Reagan signs a Bible given to Iranian officials.

Oct. 21: American Edward Tracy kidnapped in Lebanon.

Oct. 30-31: 500 Tows and Hawk spares delivered to Iran.

Nov. 2: Hostage David Jacobson released.

Nov. 3: Lebanese magazine Al Shira'a reveals Iran affair.

Nov. 4: Iranian parliament speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani confirms McFarlane visit.

Nov. 13: Reagan on television denies arms sales were merely arms-for-hostages swap, says he wanted to renew a relationship with a strategically important country, stop the Iran-Iraq war, and Iran's support for terrorism and win the release of the hostages.

Nov. 25: Contra diversion disclosed. Reagan fires North and Poindexter resigns.

Dec. 1, 3 and 9: North Poindexter and Second invoke fifth amendment rights against self-incrimination and refuse to answer questions before congressional committees.

Dec. 2: Reagan names Frank Carucci to succeed Poindexter.

Dec. 4: Senate and House leaders announce special Watergate-style committees to investigate scandal.

Dec. 18: CIA chief William Casey has brain tumour surgery.

Dec. 19: Lawrence Walsh named independent counsel to look into possible criminal offences.

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Jan. 24: Americans Allan Steen, Robert Pollitt and Jesse Turner kidnapped in Beirut.

Jan. 27: Reagan, in state of union address, says serious mistakes were made and that he assumed full responsibility.

Jan. 29: Senate intelligence committee releases its report, Casey resigns.

Feb. 2: Casey deputy, Robert Gates, nominated as CIA chief.

Feb. 26: Tower Commission finds Reagan and chief advisers responsible for Iran operation "Chaos."

Feb. 27: White House chief of staff Donald Regan resigns replaced by former Sen. Howard Baker.

March 3: Reagan nominates FBI Director William Webster to take over the CIA after Gates withdraws his nomination.

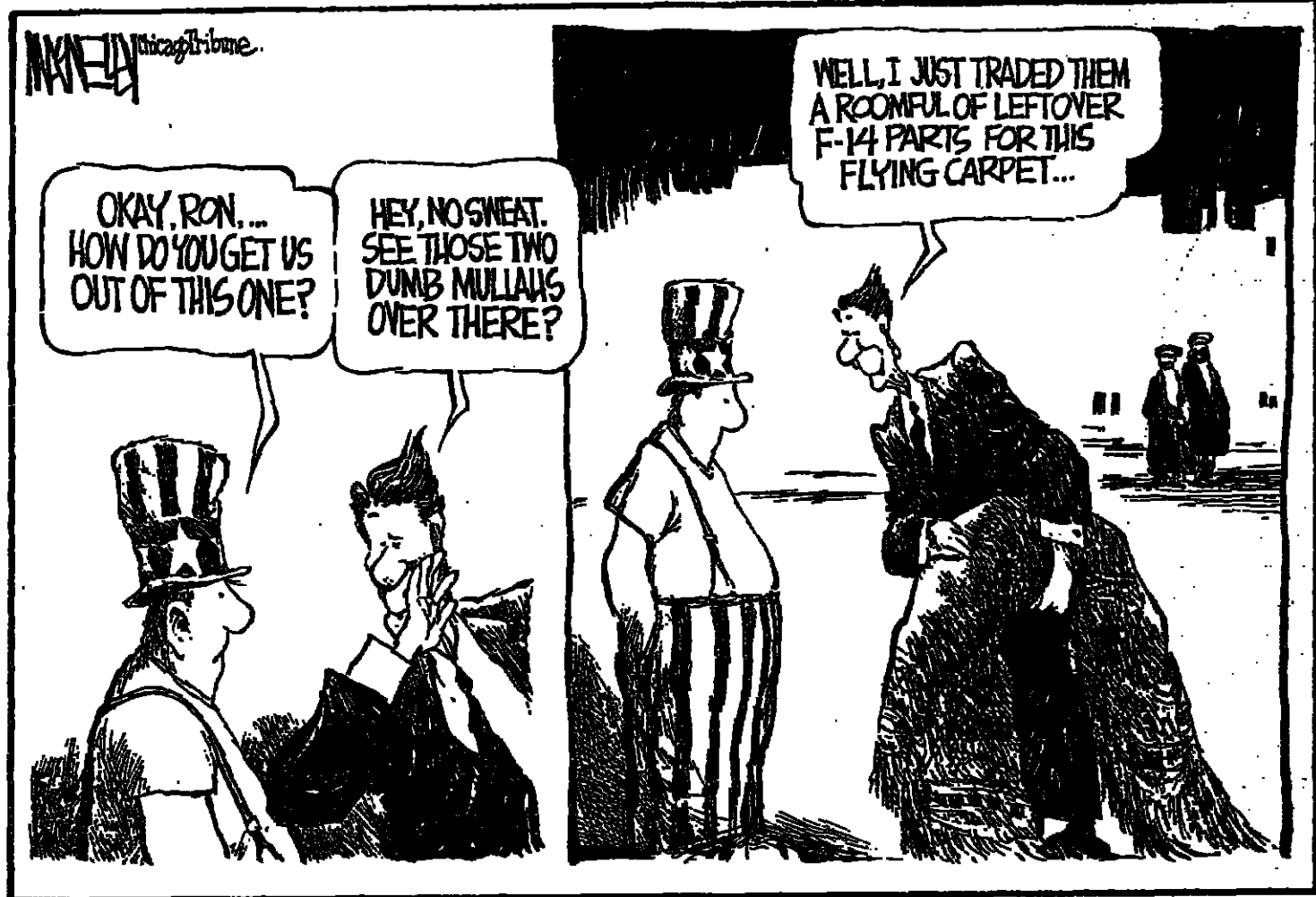
March 4: Reagan accepts Tower report, admits the operation turned into an arms-for-hostages deal, calls it a mistake.

March 14: Reagan absolves Shultz and Weinberger of blame.

March 18: Senate, House agree to limited immunity for Poindexter and North, and agree to hold joint hearings.

March 19: Reagan, at news conference, denies any knowledge of contra sales but says, "I would not go down that same road again."

April 29: Walsh obtains first guilty plea in scandal from Carl Spitz' Channel.



Gandhi faces showdown with Indian president

By Moses Manoharan
 Reuter

NEW DELHI — India's youthful prime minister and his Sikh president, whose term expires in only 12 weeks' time, look set for a confrontation next week over their constitutional powers, according to senior figures in the ruling Congress (I) Party.

President Zail Singh, 71 on May 5 and widely believed to be seeking a second five-year term, may try to dismiss Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, 42, but this would be answered by a move by Congress (I) members of parliament to impeach Singh, they said.

A Congress leader, who did not want to be named, said Gandhi was expected to seek an extension of the current parliamentary sessions beyond its scheduled end on May 7.

This would permit Congress (I), which enjoys a massive majority in both houses of parliament, quickly to reinstate Gandhi if Singh ordered his dismissal, the leader said.

He said confrontation between

the two had seemed inevitable since Singh wrote to Gandhi asking for a briefing on allegations that Sweden's Bofors company had paid kickbacks to Indians to secure a \$1.3 billion arms contract.

Singh's action was viewed as another attempt to embarrass Gandhi and build up a case for his dismissal on charges of corruption or violating provisions of the Indian constitution, the leader said.

Rajesh Pilot, Gandhi's close associate and a junior minister, told Reuters: "Knowing him (Singh) personally, he is not of that nature. But if this unbelievable thing (dismissal of Gandhi) happens, it will be the murder of democracy."

Pilot said a party strategy was expected to be hammered out on the issue by May 4. "We can deal with the situation," he added.

Singh's letter on the Bofors scandal was the latest in a series of exchanges in the past 11 weeks — a conflict which Indian newspapers have said is being used by the president as a weapon to

negotiate a second term. "Gandhi, the well-groomed scion of an elite political family, is not expected to nominate the less polished president again because of Singh's role in the Punjab crisis."

Gandhi and Singh, the country's two highest officials, returned to New Delhi on May 2 after separate tours of Indian states during which they referred to their dispute.

The president in a rare conversation with reporters on Thursday said: "There is no controversy from our side."

In Bombay he added that as head of state he could not allow his government and the democratic institutions of the country to be weakened. The president, by convention, does not give interviews or comment to reporters on major issues.

For his part Gandhi, speaking near Madras, told a May Day rally: "This government will answer to the people of India and not anyone else."

Indian newspapers have said

and we are sorting them out," Gandhi said in an interview last week.

Congress (I) Party sources said Gandhi's supporters would meet any bid to dismiss him with retaliation including possible impeachment of the president.

This would require the assent of two-thirds of the members of both houses of parliament — a margin Gandhi's party could muster only with the support of its allies and the two main Communist parties.

The Communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India, Marxist said in a joint statement they were against any moves to dismiss Gandhi.

"(Anyone) who asks the president to embark on this path is in effect advising him to organise a coup against the republican constitution," they said.

Lawyer Salman Khurshid told Reuters the president was bound by the constitution to act only on the advice of the prime minister and the cabinet except in the appointment of a prime minister.

"Although in theory the president can dismiss a prime minister, it would be wrong to accept the bland proposition that he can dismiss a prime minister who has majority support in the house," Khurshid said.

Indian newspapers have said Singh could take advantage of grey areas in the constitution to dismiss Gandhi and call another Congress (I) leader to head the government. Alternatively he might send a message to parliament detailing corruption or other charges against Gandhi.

Singh has in the past few weeks embarrassed Gandhi by demanding a briefing on each of a series of major corruption scandals which have erupted here. Among these are the controversial hiring of a U.S. detective agency to investigate Indian funds held abroad illegally and the Bofors deal.

"It is a war of nerves going on between the two of them and it will continue until the president retires," the Congress (I) leader said.

China's first woman governor tackles 'mother-in-law' problem

By Andrew Roche
 Reuter

NANKING, China — The governor of Jiangsu, China's richest province, is typical of the tough-minded technocrats spearheading the country's economic reforms — in all respects except one.

Gu Xianlin is the only female provincial governor in a nation where a mere handful of women have risen to positions of power in three decades since Mao Tse-tung asserted that "women hold up half the sky."

Her post is one of the most sensitive governorships in China. Booming Jiangsu, north of Shanghai, is in the forefront of the nation's drive for modernisation, which involves increasing contacts with the outside world and market-oriented economic reform.

Gu, a high-flying economic planner before her appointment as governor in 1983, describes the biggest difficulty facing Jiangsu in terms ordinary Chinese women would instantly recognise.

"We have too many mothers-in-law, always looking over our shoulders," she told Reuters.

The "mothers-in-law" are Gu's nickname for the bureaucrats in Peking, whose interference in local economic experiments is often seen as a time-wasting nuisance.

This year they have ordered Gu's administration to perform a

major juggling act.

Jiangsu must cut "overheated" investment in rural industry and wage an ideological campaign against Western political ideas — without scaring away foreign investors.

The instructions came amid a crackdown by Communist Party conservatives alarmed that the loosening of central control caused by the reform programme had gone too far.

But Gu, whose parents harboured Communist guerrillas before the Chinese revolution and produced five party members among their six children, sticks firmly to the official line when asked about the recent political upheavals.

She said student demonstrations in the provincial capital of Nanking in December, when protesters stoned the windows of government buildings, were the result of "bourgeois liberalisation" — China's code phrase for Western democratic ideas.

She was tight-lipped on the sacking of reformist party leader Hu Yaobang for what was alleged to be slack ideological leadership, saying: "There has been quite enough in the newspapers about that already. We support the party's decision."

Gu, 49, a native of Jiangsu who is married to a nuclear scientist and has two sons, also takes the party line on women's rights.

"In Jiangsu we already have

several woman cadres. If women feel they are discriminated against at work they can take their problem to the women's federation," she said, referring to the national women's organisation which is under close party control.

But she would not be drawn on what further measures might increase the number of women in senior political posts.

"Of course there is some prejudice, but women also have to make an effort," she said.

Gu herself works a minimum 12-hour day and said male support had been vital to her success. "Many Chinese men would not like to see a woman in their family doing so much. My husband and sons however support me completely," she said.

Although a member of the party's central committee, Gu devotes much of her energy to bypassing the "mothers-in-law" so that she can lobby China's top leaders directly.

"I once had to chase around after Premier Zhao Ziyang to explain one problem the province was having," she said.

Gu finally cornered him on a train and told him what she thought. "All right, I agree with you," Zhao eventually replied.

Gu's personal style is as forceful as that of most Chinese politicians — and considerably more lively than many of her male colleagues.

Nakasone fails to dispel doubts about his political future

By Rich Miller
 Reuter

TOKYO — Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone may have made the best of a bad situation during his trade talks in Washington last week but he failed to dispel lingering doubts about his political future, political analysts have said.

With his popularity badly tarnished by Japan's strained relations with the United States and his support for a controversial sales tax, Nakasone needed a major breakthrough to convince sceptics of his return to political favour.

He did not get it. "There are persistent voices calling for him to make the Venice summit (in June) his swan song," wrote political commentator Masaru Ogawa in the English-language Japan Times.

Kosei University professor Kenzo Uchida forecast that Nakasone would resign after the Venice summit of leading industrial democracies and well before his term expires on October 30.

"I still think Nakasone will step down after the Venice summit," Uchida told Reuters. "His talks with President Reagan did not do too much to help his weakened political power."

Other analysts were not so certain. They said Nakasone's

visit to Washington was not so disappointing as to force him to step down early.

They said that though Nakasone did not win any promise of specific U.S. action last week to bolster the sagging dollar, Reagan did make clear that he was opposed to a further fall in the U.S. currency.

The dollar's 45-per-cent drop against the yen over the past two years has hit Japan hard, pricing its exporters out of world markets and sapping domestic business confidence.

Reagan also indicated that he might lift the trade sanctions Washington recently imposed on Japan before the Venice summit.

But, with one eye on rising protectionist sentiment in the U.S. Congress, the president stopped short of definitely promising that.

"The Reagan talks gave an intravenous drip injection to Nakasone," Meiji University professor Kaoru Okano told Reuters. "He will be in office until his term ends in October."

Okano said none of the three leading contenders to succeed Nakasone had shown any sign of resigning their posts to challenge the prime minister.

They are Shintaro Abe, chairman of the executive council of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and party secretary-general Noboru Takeshita.

Nakasone said on May 3 in Washington the three so-called new leaders were cooperating closely with him to allow him a "graceful retirement."

None of the three seems powerful enough to succeed Nakasone without the prime minister's support, analysts said.

The Nakasone faction (in the party) will play a decisive role when Nakasone steps down, said Yoshio Sakurachi, a former foreign minister and leading figure in that faction.

The leading contender for the moment appears to be Abe, although analysts said the political fortunes of all three had been fluctuating so wildly in recent months that this counted for little.

The relative success of Nakasone's trip to Washington reflects well on Abe, who laid the groundwork for the prime minister by visiting the United States himself.

Both other candidates are having problems. As finance minister, Miyazawa has been blamed for the recent rise of the yen against the dollar.

Takeshita has been unable to unite the powerful faction of former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka behind him. Takeshita is being urged by some power brokers to leave the faction and form his own political group within the ruling party.

UAE minister joins contrasting worlds of oil and poetry

By Issam Hanna
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Mana Saeed Al Oteiba moves between the two separate worlds of oil and poetry. He is the United Arab Emirates oil minister, and also an accomplished poet.

Born in 1946 to a prominent family in the oil-rich emirate of Abu Dhabi, Oteiba has published 18 collections of poems on topics ranging from love to patriotism. Equally versed in the language of oil barrels, production quotas and refinery output, Oteiba became his country's first oil minister and a senior figure in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

"I was a poet before I became a minister, and will continue to be so even if I quit my job," Oteiba told Reuters in a rare interview on his lesser-known vocation.

"Poetry has a distinguished place among my concerns because in it I find myself. Poetry is part of my character, part of my passion... through it I live and on its wings fly through boundless skies."

Perhaps not surprisingly, Oteiba's most famous verses are on oil. With humour, perception, and occasional anger he penned his reflections on OPEC as the 13-nation group struggled to keep oil prices from falling in a gutted market.

"As oil minister I have been in states of tension and anxiety at certain times. I wrote poetry to reflect this, with no courtesy to anyone... What I wrote were frank words about oil's important events."

Oteiba was criticised by other OPEC ministers for a candid interview in 1985, the year of the group's 25th anniversary, in which he said organisation members were free to sell oil at any price.

He responded in verse. "It is because, without apportioning praise, I have exposed outright what's happening within OPEC that every loquacious cockerel raised such a din and made declarations?"

Harsh words were also reserved for Western oil companies and non-OPEC producers accused of trying to undermine the group. In one poem, he urged

colleagues to abide by production quotas:

"...Let us all unite in facing the most vicious of attacks, let us tighten our belts... to make our defences effective."

Oteiba said the lines may have made a difference, but he is quick to point out the difference between his poetic and ministerial statements.

"The poet's word is not that of a diplomat. He is not restricted to any rules and cannot be tried for his poetic statement like an oil minister. I express through my poems my feelings as an Arab man, not the official stand of a minister."

Oteiba said he grew up in an artistic atmosphere. Both his father, a leading merchant, and his grandfather were noted poets.

He graduated from Baghdad University with a degree in economics and political science in 1963 and a year later became chairman of Abu Dhabi's oil department.

When Abu Dhabi joined six other emirates to form the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1971, Oteiba was named oil minister.

He continued his studies, earning a doctorate with honours from Cairo University in 1977 for a thesis on "Oil and the Economics of the UAE."

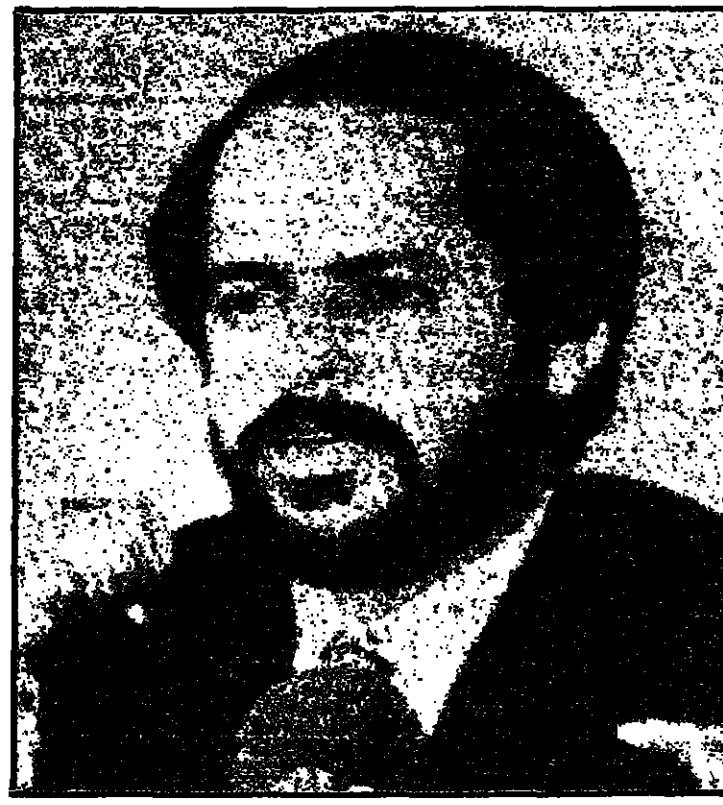
His poetry, this year the subject of a doctoral thesis by a Beirut University student, includes eight collections of *nabati* (colloquial) verse, written in the dialect of Gulf Arabs and reflecting their experiences.

Asked which type of poetry was his favourite, Oteiba replied: "My poems are like my sons. You love all your sons and you cannot distinguish between them."

But he said despite his penchant for *nabati*, "Immortality is for the classical poetry."

In the artistic debate between traditional and modern Arab poets, Oteiba sides with those inspired by such early giants as Abu Tammam, Al Mutanabi and Ibn Zaydoun.

But he called for a truce in the conflict between proponents of the modern and classical styles. "Let all flowers bloom... Those who have something to give, let them do so or let them bless the creation of others."



Mana Saeed Al Oteiba

U.S. supreme court ruling clears way for death-row executions

By James Vicini
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Hundreds of convicted murderers on death row are closer to execution after a landmark U.S. supreme court decision last week.

The 5-4 ruling put to rest one of the last sweeping challenges to the way capital punishment has been imposed in the United States. It also slammed the door on the only remaining legal claim for a reprieve for many of the nearly 1,900 prisoners condemned to die, legal experts said.

The supreme court upheld the capital punishment system in Georgia even though a comprehensive study found sharp racial disparities in the sentencing of killers in the state.

The court ruled against Warren McCleskey, a 36-year-old black man who was condemned to die for killing a white Atlanta police officer during a furniture store robbery in 1978.

His hopes to avoid death in the electric chair were based on the study showing that those who killed whites were 11 times more likely to be sentenced to death in Georgia than killers of blacks.

Blacks who killed whites were sentenced to die three times more often than whites who killed whites, according to the study.

But the court rejected McCleskey's plea after finding no evidence of discrimination in his case or by the Georgia legislature in enacting its death penalty law.

And in another 5-4 ruling, the supreme court broadened the death penalty to include accomplices in murder cases who play a major role in the killing and display reckless disregard for human life.

The experts predicted that the rulings would quicken the pace of executions.

"It is shocking and out-

rageous," said Henry Schwarzschild of the American Civil Liberties Union, who conceded that efforts would end to persuade the high court that racial bias had impermissibly tainted death penalty cases.

He said the ruling would not trigger an immediate "blood-bath" for death-row inmates, but would result in a "slow and steady" increase in executions. There have been 70 since capital punishment was reinstated 11 years ago.

The Reagan administration has strongly advocated the death penalty as a deterrent to crime.

Justice Department officials praised the decision and said that rejection of the death penalty law in Georgia would have prompted a spate of legal challenges by death-row prisoners seeking to overturn their sentences.

"It would have been a nightmare," said one senior Justice Department official, who asked not to be identified.

Paul Kamenar, a capital punishment supporter at the Washington Legal Foundation, said the ruling would speed the pace of executions.

"No system is perfect. Our system is probably the best in the world in meeting due process. At some point justice has to be carried out," he said.

Capital punishment foes vowed to shift their battle from the supreme court to the state legislatures in an effort to restrict or abolish the death penalty in the 37 of the 50 states that now allow executions.

But they acknowledged that they face an uphill struggle in view of recent polls showing that an overwhelming number of Americans support the death penalty even though many believe it may be meted out unfairly.

Asian refugees change San Francisco's Tenderloin district

By Tom Carter
Reuters

SAN FRANCISCO — The rundown section of downtown San Francisco known as "the Tenderloin" is slowly shedding its reputation as a centre of sleazy sex shows, streetwalkers and derelicts.

Thousands of Asian refugees have flooded the area since the late 1970s, and now the pungent odours of thick Turkish coffee and French cigarettes waft from shops and small cafes in the densely populated, revitalised district.

"I walk down there and I think I'm in Vietnam," said a hotel clerk on nearby Geary Street. "We call it 'Little Saigon'."

By some estimates, the 24,000 population of the Tenderloin includes some 12,000 Laotians,

Cambodians and Southern Chinese who once lived in Vietnam.

One day the district, where gambling parlours and nightclubs sprang up during the gold rush of 1849, may rival San Francisco's Japantown and Chinatown as a tourist draw.

After World War Two, absentee owners allowed many flats and residence hotels to deteriorate. As rents rose elsewhere in the city, low-income people poured into the Tenderloin.

By 1970, the heart of the Tenderloin had a predominantly white male population and a high crime rate.

As the United States pulled out of the Vietnam war, a wave of refugees found the Tenderloin's low rents a magnet.

"A lot of people think the Vietnamese came here with gold

bricks in their suitcases," said Brad Paul, director of the North of Market Planning Coalition, a nonprofit neighbourhood action group.

"It's a myth, the wealthy Vietnamese went elsewhere after the fall of Saigon in 1975. We got the poor who came later," he said.

The biggest influx of Vietnamese came in 1978, followed in 1980 by Cambodians and in 1981 by Laotian refugees.

A visit to the intersection of Leavenworth and Eddy Streets illustrates the changes overtaking the area.

A Chinese fish and meat market, its name emblazoned in pink and red, occupies one street corner.

Next door is the Angkor restaurant, with tables that seat only 28 patrons. Restaurant critics, according to copies of reviews in

the windows, have given the Cambodian eatery with formica-covered tables and linoleum floors high marks.

Beef stew with Chinese herbs and red tea is a favourite. "Cheaper than cheap," wrote one critic. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$4.50 a dish.

At a Vietnamese market slabs of salted dried fish hang over the meat counter. Trays are filled with small snails, tiny shrimp and mountains of beef.

A stack of 22-kilogramme bags labelled "Thai jasmine white rice, scented" fills one corner.

The shops were opened by the families who crowded into rooms they rented in the ageing buildings.

"These were extended families and everyone worked," said Paul. "They could rent a

storefront for \$200 then. Groceries were the first businesses."

When the refugees arrived, they found the Tenderloin to be a neighbourhood already filled with social service agencies, soup kitchens, political action groups and great ethnic tolerance.

One grocer, 60-year-old Tom Thuy Young, a Chinese who had a grocery in Vietnam for 30 years, suggested in his broken English a pride in his new community.

"No welfare," said Young, wearing a three-piece suit, from behind his cash register. "We don't want. We want work. We have jobs. Business. Work hard. Twelve hours a day I work."

Before 1979, he added, waving finger toward the door: "Bad street. But now up, up, up." Paul's 500-member neighbour-

hood group, started in 1980, now includes 100 Southeast Asians. It spearheaded a move to stop developers from spending \$100 million in high-rise hotels that would have displaced hundreds of families.

It helped change the zoning laws to restrict the height of new buildings to eight storeys and require that all new construction contain some housing units.

"The Tenderloin is like a village atmosphere now," said Sara Colm, co-editor of the Tenderloin Times, a 10-year-old nonprofit local newspaper that prints articles in four languages.

She admits the Tenderloin still has major problems.

"But the community is quickly activated politically and there's respect for what people here think," she said.

Church censures new book by Brazilian theologian

By Peter Muello
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — The Rev. Leonardo Boff, the priest whose defence of Liberation Theology upset the Vatican at the start of this decade, is facing new criticism over a book that the local Roman Catholic hierarchy has sharply condemned.

One Rio De Janeiro bishop, Karl Josef Romer, said the book "repeats ecclesiastical positions already censured" by the Vatican and "could only perturb, innovate and corrupt the common faith."

Boff, already sentenced once to almost a year of "obedient silence" for criticising the church, says he fears a new punishment from Rome.

"This time it's even worse than before," the gray-bearded Roman Catholic priest said in a conversation with the AP. "I can't even defend myself. What- ever I say now, the conservatives in the church say 'call Rome.'"

The controversial book, called "Trinity, Society and Liberation," was published in 1986 by Vozer, a publishing house run by the Franciscan seminary in Petropolis, 40 miles from Rio. Boff lives and works in Petropolis.

Boff, 48, holds a doctorate in theology from the University of Munich and has written 44 books. He is a symbol of the so-called "progressive" clergy and a cult hero for the Brazilian left.

"Brother Leonardo," as he is popularly called, is one of the fathers of Liberation Theology, popular in Latin America and other parts of the Third World. The theology associates spiritual liberation with freedom from social and economic oppression, and has been compared to Marxism.

His latest book uses a three-in-one concept of the holy trinity — the Father, Son and Holy Spirit — as a model for a new, egalitarian order in society and within the church itself.

"The trinity is our true social programme," Boff wrote. "Humanity understood as a union of persons, the trinity is the basis of a society of brothers and sisters, of equals."

As in past books, Boff links religious and political concepts. "Strict monotheism can justify totalitarianism and the concentration of power in one person, whether he be political or religious," Boff wrote.

In contrast, he noted, a trinity-inspired church is "more communion than hierarchy, more service than power, more circular than pyramidal, more an embrace than a reverent bowing to authority."

The 296-page, paperback sells for about \$3.60 and is in its third printing. The imprimatur, the required permission to publish from a church superior, was given by Bishop Adriano Hipolito. Also a Franciscan, he is known for his work with the poor.

However, the church officials charged with maintaining Catholic dogma sharply criticised the book and rejected it for courses and seminary study in Rio.

The archdiocese commission for the doctrine of the faith in Rio De Janeiro reviewed Boff's book in the March edition of the bulletin of the clergy magazine. The review "vividly discouraged" Catholics from reading it.

The controversy has drawn national attention in Brazil, the world's largest Roman Catholic country.

In the past Boff has drawn the Vatican's ire for criticising what he called the "feudal" and "elitist" structure of the church, notably in his polemic 1981 book, "Church: Charisma and Power."

In 1984, Boff was summoned to Rome for questioning about his writings by the former inquisitorial office, the holy congregation for the doctrine of the faith.

On the congregation's recommendation, the pope ordered Boff in May 1985 to keep "obedient silence" for an indefinite period. The punishment was suspended after 10 months.

Now, the Rio commission's report could lead to a new inquiry. "We cannot help but see in all this the same ecclesiastical operations already censured," wrote Bishop Romer, president of the commission. "But now they are reinforced and worsened by a whole specious and fantastic trinity theory — that does not hesitate even to excuse violent revolts unleashed to destroy oppression."

Boff's reaction has been silence. He has refused to defend his book in public and has turned down requests for interviews.

The priest spoke briefly with the AP during a ceremony for the publication here of a book by Italian philosophy Professor Luigi Bordin entitled "Marxism and Liberation Theology," where Boff was the main speaker.

"On one hand, the controversy is good because it helps to divulge our ideas. But a lot of people simply don't understand," he said.

Boff said he had received letters of support from bishops across the nation and abroad, adding that he hoped the censure would remain limited to the Archdiocese of Rio.

The powerful national conference of Brazilian bishops, the church's ruling body here, so far has not commented.

West Germany steps up the war on AIDS

Tony Jackson explains how two leading West German companies, Hoechst and Bayer, have joined forces to produce a formidable research combination in the battle against Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

BONN — In the worldwide race for a cure for Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), West Germany is plainly determined not to be left behind. The recent announcement that Hoechst and Bayer, twin pillars of German industrial science, are to join forces on AIDS research suggests a formidable combination.

Although both companies are thought of primarily as chemical manufacturers, each ranks among the world's five biggest drug-makers in its own right. Last year, their combined spending on pharmaceutical research totalled DM1.5 billion (\$820 million).

This is believed to be the first time the two have got together on a research project of any kind since the days when both were part of the colossal IG Farben combine, broken up by the Allies after World War II.

Bayer, however, has already set a precedent. The group has twice co-operated with rival German drug companies, once with E. Merck on the development of a treatment for the tropical disease

schistosomiasis and once with Schering on a diabetes drug.

It was Hoechst, though, which took the initiative this time. Professor Hans-Georg Gareis, the Hoechst main board member in charge of pharmaceuticals, had reportedly watched the progress of AIDS with mounting concern.

Eventually, prompted by anxiety that the industry should be seen to be doing its bit, he approached his opposite numbers and had agreement in principle within two days.

Both sides emphasise that nothing is yet clear about the project beyond the principle itself. Indeed, neither seems yet to have much to contribute in terms of AIDS research, although Bayer is deliberately vague on that point.

Hoechst, however, is unusual among commercial drug concerns in that it works directly with samples of the AIDS virus.

According to Dr. Elmar Schirmer, head of chemotherapy at Hoechst, the group has an agreement with the Georg Speyerhaus, a Frankfurt research institute which has collected iso-

lates of the AIDS virus through its diagnostic work for Frankfurt hospitals.

"They have the right to work in our laboratories here, in secure conditions," Dr. Schirmer says. "We get supplies from them, and we are screening compounds against the virus." Like other drug researchers, Dr. Schirmer begins by looking for a compound which will hinder the virus from reproducing itself.

He concentrates on trying to interfere with the enzyme known as reverse transcriptase, which viruses of the AIDS type — technically known as retroviruses — produce as an essential stage of their replication.

"We see the possibility of inhibiting other retroviruses, both in cell culture and in animal models," he says. "But we have not managed to inhibit the AIDS virus *in vivo* though we have managed to suppress it in cell cultures. We know part of the action is as a reverse transcriptase inhibitor, but there is more to it than that."

The compound sounds in principle similar to AZT, the AIDS treatment from the drug company Wellcome which is already on the market in the U.K. and U.S. But Dr. Schirmer is at pains to

emphasise that Wellcome is much further ahead. And, he says, "though we are quite optimistic of finding a compound which will inhibit the virus in the near future, that's no cure."

Bayer will not give similar details on its own work, on the grounds that it is too early to be explicit. Oddly, the group owns one drug which has been widely tested as a possible AIDS treatment, but has not itself taken part in the testing.

This drug is suramin, the active ingredient in a 60-year-old Bayer drug against sleeping sickness called germanin. In 1979, a Belgian professor found that suramin inhibited reverse transcriptase in retroviruses generally, and it was subsequently shown to act against the AIDS virus.

Worldwide investigations are still in progress, with Bayer supplying the ingredient and passing on any historical information it has about the drug, but not otherwise taking part. The reasons for this are not clear, but Bayer probably has little to lose. Suramin is reportedly highly toxic when taken in high enough doses for AIDS, and seems no longer to hold the promise it did a couple of years ago — Financial Times feature.

Dutch tobacco museum tells story of smoking

By Martin Nesirky
Reuters

GRONINGEN, Netherlands — You may love the weed or hate it, but there is no escaping the impact tobacco has had on the world, as an unusual museum in this northern Dutch town relates.

Since a bemused Christopher Columbus watched Cubans puffing on cigars in 1492 and reported the odd sight in his ship's log, smokers the world over have branched out to use pipes, roll their own cigarettes, inhale snuff and chew tobacco.

And starting with King James I of England in 1604, the anti-smoking lobby has discovered an increasing number of compelling reasons why people should never touch the stuff.

The Dutch Tobacco Museum in the old university town of Groningen tells the story of a habit which started centuries before Columbus bumped into the Americas and found the inhabitants smoking, but took off only when it reached Europe in the 16th century.

Exhibits include a 2,000-year-old Mexican pipe fashioned as a snake's head, ornately decorated 17th century clay pipes and a mock-up of a 19th century tobacco shop. A cigarette manufacturer based in Groningen donated the exhibits.

The museum shows that tobacco, the common name for the plants *nicotiana tabacum* and *nicotiana glauca*, first attracted attention in Europe for its supposed medicinal properties.

French diplomat Jean Nicot, who gave his name to the plants, studied their powers and then helped introduce tobacco to France from Portugal in the 1550s.

Not long afterwards, England's maritime hero Sir Walter Raleigh suggested Queen Elizabeth I might like a smoke. She found it "pleasant" and the habit spread among the English.

So much so, King James was prompted to pen in 1604 "a counterblast to tobacco," in which he condemned smoking as a "vile custome." He introduced such strict measures against pipemakers that many fled across the North Sea to the European continent where smoking began to flourish too.

Tobacco was soon being cultivated in The Netherlands and elsewhere in Europe, but demand was so great the commodity dominated early trading with settlers in North America.

At that time tobacco was sold as bound bundles of leaves and pieces were flaked or cut off at the shop ready for use as pipe tobacco or further dried to crumble and use as snuff.

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Sweden beats Canada to win 1st world hockey title in 25 years

VIENNA (AP) — Thanks to a Viennese court ruling, a 9-0 thrashing of Canada and a tight final-round Soviet victory, Sweden won its first title in 25 years at the World Hockey Championships.

The defending champion Soviets finished second behind Sweden on goal differential, and Czechoslovakia was third in the tournament that included one of the biggest hockey controversies ever.

The controversy was over a Polish-born West German player and ended up with a Viennese court effectively deciding whether Finland or Sweden made the playoffs.

The court wrangle developed after the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) nullified West German victories over Canada and Finland in the preliminary round. But the world hockey body temporarily had to restore the wins after an injunction by the regional court of Vienna.

According to the IIHF, the West German team used an ineligible player, Miroslav Sikora, who played for his native Poland at the 1977 World Junior Championships and thus could not play here for the Germans.

Canada and Finland lost to West Germany in games Sikora

played. Initially, the federation overturned the results, giving both Canada and Finland 5-0 victories. That left Finland and Sweden even in points, but the Finns would have qualified for the medal pool because they beat Sweden 4-1.

The federation asked the judge to withdraw the injunction, but his ruling, claiming the IIHF acted unconstitutionally in nullifying the West German victories, stood. As a result, Sweden qualified instead of Finland.

"We won our games and would have qualified anyway if the whole thing had not happened," Swedish coach Tommy Sandlin said.

The Soviet team, hoping for an unprecedented 21st title, did not lose a game here, but had two decisive ties in the medal round, against Sweden and Canada.

"Overall, the Russians are the best team in the world, but we had better tactics, and that is what has decided it," Sandlin said.

Playing the first match Sunday and entering the last leg of the

medal round tied with the Soviets with two points, Sweden needed to rout Canada. The spirited team Sweden, which now has won four world titles, opted for all-out speed on attack.

The Swedes raced to a 3-0 first period lead on goals by Thomas Rundqvist, Mikael Andersson and Anders Eldebrink.

"We played Swedish-type hockey, with fast attacks and strong defence," assistant coach Curt Lindstrom said. "At the beginning of this tournament, we had good defence, but also problems with our attacks. This time, it all worked fine."

Lars-Gunnar Pettersson and Bengt-Ake Gustafsson connected in the second period. In the third period, Håkan Loob, Lars Molin, Peter Sundstrom and Anders Carlsson added four more Swedish goals to hand Canada its heaviest defeat at the world championships since 1977 in Vienna, when the Soviets trounced them 11-1.

"We wanted to play a very competitive game, but it just did not work," Canadian coach Dave King said.

By contrast to that free-scoring encounter, Czechoslovakia led 1-0 against the Soviet Union for more than 50 minutes. A Czech victory would have won the world

title, but the Soviets rallied for a 2-1 win.

At 12:43 of the third period, Vladimir Krutov, the leading scorer in the tournament, scored his 11th goal on a power play. Just over two minutes later, the Soviets got the winning goal when Igor Stelnov fired in a slapshot from near the blue line.

The only goal for Czechoslovakia was scored at 9:41 of the first period by Antonin Stejvna with his team holding a 5-on-3 skating advantage.

For the Swedes, it was an unexpected victory that came two years before they had hoped it might.

"We did not expect to win here and that is why this title means more to us," said Swedish team captain Gustafsson. "We are a young team which was preparing to win the title at the world championships in Stockholm in 1989, but it is great to have it already."

Canada, winner of 19 gold medals, placed fourth at the eight-nation tournament, its worst showing since 1981.

The United States finished seventh, one place lower than last year in Moscow.

Switzerland dropped out of the A Pool by placing last, and will be replaced at the next championship by Poland.

Everton retains league title

LONDON (R) — Ian Rush's 38th goal of the season on Sunday failed to prevent Everton winning the English first division soccer title for the second time in three seasons.

Everton clung on to the lead over Liverpool in the first minute at Norwich to win 1-0 and ensure that the championship trophy would be making the short journey from Anfield to Goodison Park.

The three points Everton prised from their trip to Norwich was enough to carry them beyond the reach of Liverpool, who had to wait until the 83rd minute at Anfield for Rush to score his 29th league goal of the season. It earned them a 1-0 win over Watford.

Everton, with two games to play compared to Liverpool's one, boasted a four-point lead.

At the other end of the table, Aston Villa's 2-1 home defeat by

Sheffield Wednesday cost them their place among the elite of English soccer. They won the First Division Championship in 1981 and the European Cup the following year.

But Charlton Athletic and Manchester City, favourites to accompany Villa into the second division, kept alive their hopes of survival with gutsy victories.

Charlton pulled off a stunning 3-0 win at Newcastle, 18-year-old debutant Carl Leaburne scoring one of their goals, and City beat Nottingham Forest 1-0.

Welsh international Van Den Hauwe, scorer of Everton's goal after only 45 seconds at Carrow road on Monday, is not even guaranteed a championship medal. Like so many of his teammates, he has struggled against injury and he was making only his ninth first team appearance of the season.

After he had fired home a Trevor Steven pass following a corner, Everton clung on to their lead with gritty determination rather than displaying the flowing football that is the Goodison trademark.

Rush was made captain for the day on his final appearance at Anfield before joining Juventus next season and he responded, almost inevitably, with a goal.

Seven minutes from time he showed the Watford defence a clean pair of heels as he picked up a John Aldridge flick and hammered his 30th goal for Liverpool in a seven-year spell at Anfield.

When the game ended Rush did a lap of honour before stripping off his number nine shirt and tossing it into the crowd at the top end.

Watford manager Graham Taylor said of Rush: "He is the best goalscorer I have ever seen and I hope he goes on and does well in Italy."

Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle, another of the English game's heavyweights who hopes to be parading his considerable skills for a continental club next season, said farewell to White Hart Lane in the grand manner by helping the F.A. Cup finalists to a 4-0 win over Manchester United.

United manager Alex Ferguson described his side's performance as "embarrassing."

Warriors face Lakers in next round of playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — The Golden State Warriors, the second National Basketball Association (NBA) team to win a five-game playoff series after trailing 2-0, now face another tough assignment in the Los Angeles Lakers.

"We've had our backs against the wall, every game has been a pressure game, and we've answered the call," said Purvis Short, making the first NBA playoff appearance of his nine-year career. "The playoff will hurt the Lakers more than us. We're ready to play."

Golden State, making its first playoff appearance since 1977, defeated Utah 118-113 at Salt Lake City Sunday to advance to the second round against the Lakers, who swept Denver in three games and haven't played since Wednesday. The Lakers, 65-17 in the regular season, play host to the Warriors on Tuesday.

The only other time an NBA team has won a best-of-five series after trailing 2-0 was in 1956 when Fort Wayne defeated St. Louis. The best-of-five format was not used for 16 seasons between 1968 and 1983.

In other games Sunday, Milwaukee beat Philadelphia 102-89 to win that first-round series 3-2, and Detroit edged Atlanta 112-111 in a second-round opener. On Saturday, Seattle beat Houston 111-106 in overtime to open that second-round series.

On Tuesday, it's Milwaukee at Boston, Detroit at Atlanta and Seattle at Houston along with Golden State at the Lakers.

Joe Barry Carroll scored 24 points and Larry Smith tipped in a rebound with 17 seconds left for

Golden State, which led 87-65 in the third quarter, but had to hold off a Utah rally.

"All year we've felt like we could play better and now we're playing like we're capable," Carroll said. "You can't imagine what it feels like until you get here."

The Jazz got as close as 114-111 when Mark Eaton hit a free throw when he was fouled by Chris Mullin with 39 seconds left.

Smith, who finished with 12 points and 14 rebounds, put Golden State ahead 116-111 when he tipped in a rebound. Eric "Sleepy" Floyd, who had 21 points and 14 assists, stole Kelly Tripucka's inbounds pass with 17 seconds left to spoil Utah's comeback.

Utah, which defeated Golden State in the four previous games in the Salt Palace this season, was led by Karl Malone with 23 points and Bailey and Darrell Griffith with 19 apiece.

Bucks 102, 76ers 89. Milwaukee eliminated Philadelphia for the second straight season and ended Julius Erving's basketball career.

Craig Hodges keyed a 17-2 run with two 3-point baskets and a 2-point shot as the Bucks turned a 69-67 lead late in the third quarter into an 86-69 rout with 8:53 left. Hodges scored all of his 14 points in the fourth period.

Much of the decisive spur came with a lineup that included reserves Hodges, Paul Mokeski and Dudley Bradley. Assistant coach Del Harris was in charge of the team after coach Don Nelson was ejected with two technicals in the second quarter.

Amman Little League

May 1

T-Ball

Seiko 11 vs Mercedes Benz 15
Signode-Jamco 13 vs Dorma 17

Coach Pitch

Gen. Compt. and Electr. 19 vs Nashashibi/Ebbini 22
Jordan Worsted Mills 28 vs Volvo 27
Danish Dairy 25 vs Jordan Express 19

Kid Pitch

Furukawa 15 vs Wang 12
Samir 5 vs Squibb 8
Istiklal 3 vs Ericsson 20

Soft Ball

Al Ahlyah 5 vs Eagle Engineering 7
Near East 4 vs Westing House 24

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Local team in Iraq for shooting contest

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Jordanian shooting team arrived here on Monday to take part in Saddam International Olympic Shooting Championships, which will be held here on Saturday. The team comprises 19 members, including players, referees and administrative staff. Taking part in the championship will be teams from Kuwait, Yugoslavia and Iraq.

Turkish club's talks with Atkinson fail

ISTANBUL (R) — An offer by Istanbul's Fenerbahce soccer club of a managerial post to England's Ron Atkinson failed after he asked for more than £250,000 (\$600,000), Fenerbahce executive said Monday. "After he came with such a high figure, we invited him to negotiate, but we made no counter offer," Fenerbahce official Yuksek Gunay told Reuters. He said Atkinson wanted to bargain with Fenerbahce on the phone from England, but the Turkish club declined to discuss monetary issues by telephone and invited him to Istanbul. "There was no word from England since then and the affair seems to be over. We have no contacts with other managers from England," Gunay added.

Turk wins Golden Horn Half-Marathon

ISTANBUL (AP) — Zeki Ozturk of Turkey won the Golden Horn Half-Marathon Sunday in 1:03:04 hours. Two others Turks, Ahmet Altun and Zeki Atli, came in second and third in 1:03:18 and 1:04:20. A total of 2,011 runners, including athletes from the United States, United Kingdom, Austria and Hungary participated in the race that was included in the calendar of the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) this year. The 21.1-kilometre race was run along the remains of the Byzantine walls and ended at the bank of the 7.5-kilometre Golden Horn waterway, which runs into the Bosphorus that divides Europe and Asia.

Philippines win sudden death play-off

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Eddie Bagtas sank a 15-foot putt on the first hole of a sudden death play-off to give the Philippines a 2-1 victory over hosts Malaysia in the Dunhill Cup Golf Pacific final Sunday. The two teams got through to the cup final at St. Andrews, Scotland, on Oct. 1-4. Rudy Lavares tied the score for the Philippines when he beat Malaysia's Sahabudin Yusof 71-75 after Frankie Minoza went down to Sahabudin's elder brother Nazamudin, 74-72. Malaysia's Marimuthu Ramayah made a late charge with birdies at the 16th and 17th holes to force the play-off against Bagtas, who was comfortably leading over the first nine.

Camacho beats Davis in junior welterweight

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — Hector "Macho" Camacho outslugged and outthrust Howard Davis on the inside to capture a 10-round unanimous decision in his junior welterweight boxing debut Saturday at the Atlantic City Convention Centre. Camacho, the former World Boxing Council Junior Lightweight and outgoing lightweight champion, overwhelmed Davis in the first, second and eighth rounds of the nationally televised bout. He landed right hooks, right upper cuts and straight lefts against Davis, the 1976 Olympic gold medalist.

Real Madrid to appeal against UEFA sanctions

MADRID (R) — Real Madrid will appeal on Tuesday against the stiff sanctions handed out by the European Football Union (UEFA) for the behaviour of players and fans during last month's European Cup semifinal against Bayern Munich.

Real President Ramon Mendoza said in a television interview Sunday night the appeal had been drawn up by the club's lawyers and would be reviewed by directors on Monday before being sent to UEFA headquarters in Zurich Tuesday.

The Spanish champions have been ordered to play their next two home matches in European competition behind closed doors with no television or radio broadcasts because of crowd trouble during the return leg of the Bayern tie.

In addition, midfielder Juanito Gomez has received a five-year ban for his sending-off in Munich and the club was fined 40,000 Swiss francs (\$27,200) for the unsportsmanlike behaviour of the rest of the team.

Mendoza declined to specify the basis of Real's appeal, but stressed what he called the provocations by some of the Munich players who made insulting gestures at the crowd.

Officials say the 'no-crowd' punishment could cost the club more than \$1.5 million in lost revenue.

Real Madrid edges Real Mallorca

On Sunday night, Real Madrid, eager to polish their tarnished image, scored a convincing 3-0 win at home to Real Mallorca to move two points clear of Barcelona at the top of the Spanish first division. Barcelona could manage only a

goalless draw in a local derby at third-placed Espanol, and have still to play the champions at home with seven matches left in the title playoffs between the top teams.

After a public reprimand Saturday by the European Football Union (UEFA) for the behaviour of fans and players, most of the 45,000-strong crowd at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium booed the antics of the fanatical "Ultras" supporters.

The Ultras were blamed for a barrage of missiles which greeted Bayern Munich players at last month's European Cup semifinal and brought the club a two-match "no-crowd" punishment from UEFA's disciplinary committee.

The only hint of trouble in Sunday's match — watched by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and Giovanni Agnelli, owner of the Italian side Juventus — came when a fan ran on to the pitch to celebrate the home side's second goal from Rafael Gordillo.

The rugged midfielder gave Real the lead with a diving header in the 24th minute and added the second just before the hour when Emilio Butragueno carved his way through the Mallorca defence and unselfishly laid off the scoring pass.

One minute from the end, Hugo Sanchez flicked on a Gordillo pass with his heel for Martin Vazquez to round off an excellent personal performance.

The Barcelona Derby allowed Espanol to maintain the first division's only unbeaten home record but was a tedious affair, cheered only by the reappearance as a second-half substitute of Barcelona fullback Julio Alberto, recovered from a broken leg earlier in the season.

South Korea denounces 1936 Olympics comparison

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea's top sports official demanded Monday that an opposition leader apologise for comparing the 1988 Seoul Olympics to the 1936 Berlin Olympics held under the Nazis.

In a special statement, Sports Minister Lee Sei-Ki said opposition leader Kim Young-Sam had damaged the country's pride with "irrational and irresponsible" remarks.

Lee urged Kim to retract and apologise for the remarks.

In an address Friday to inaugurate the new major opposition Reunification Democratic Party, Kim declared that next year's Seoul Olympics would resemble the games held under Adolf Hitler unless the South Korean government clears the way for democracy.

Kim, the new party's president, claimed that unless there are changes, the Seoul games would

be in danger of becoming a tool to boost the rule of the Chun government in the same way Hitler used the 1936 games.

"If the Olympics are to be self-advertisement for the government, and if the people are to be forced by the use of government force to participate, then our Olympics will be no more than a re-enactment of the Berlin Olympics of 1936 under the Nazis," Kim said.

Lee described the Seoul games as one of South Korea's national tasks, "to be carried out with the spontaneous participation of the whole people."

Lee accused Kim of aiding the North Korean government with his remarks. He said Kim had again disclosed his real intention to "sacrifice such national tasks as the Olympics out of impure political concern and for partisan interests."

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673383 - 4 - 8 p.m.

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SAFARI 3000

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OPERA

SHANGHAI SURPRISE

Performances 3:15, 5:15, 9:00, 10:45

PLAZA

WILD CATS

Performances 3:30, 5:10, 9:00, 10:45

RAGHADAN

FUN GIRLS

Performances 12:45, 14:00, 15:30, 17:00

Interest in gold bullion spreads to Euromarkets

LONDON (R) — Renewed interest in gold bullion has spread to the Euromarkets where shrewd operators are attracting investors to corporate bonds by tying them to warrants to buy gold.

Players are being given the opportunity to invest in multi-million dollar Eurobonds which, while also yielding interest, permit them to gamble on the gold price.

Eurobonds are international bonds issued by companies and nations to raise money, and are mainly traded in London.

The gold warrants now being attached to some new bonds allow the investor to buy gold at a set price in the future. The bond issuer undertakes to supply the gold. The bondholder wins if the free market gold price rises above the price at which he has contracted to buy but loses out if the price is sluggish.

Last month, International Corona Resources (Bermuda) issued a \$50 million bond which was convertible into gold and carried warrants to buy gold. It was the latest in a flurry of business which started on the domestic Swiss market.

An influx of investor money into gold in recent days amid uncertainty over foreign exchange and stock markets has pushed bullion prices higher. It was fixed in London few weeks ago at \$445 an ounce, its highest since Feb. 25, 1985, and an increase of more than 10 per cent since Jan. 1.

"Gold is the only thing people will buy at the moment. So there's a flurry of interest in gold-linked paper," one Eurobond trader in London said.

But some analysts pointed out that such bonds were not for the faint-hearted because the investor takes a risk on gold.

"They're not for widows and orphans," said one market analyst here. "They're more of a gamble."

Another London Eurobond trader agreed. "They are a high risk investment because of the volatility in the gold price. It's being heavily tipped to rise so this is one way of getting on the bandwagon," she said.

Traders and analysts were divided on whether issuing gold-linked paper was a new trend or just a fad.

Bankers said such issues took time to put together. "It's very complex to structure a deal and it takes a long time to bear fruit," one trader said.

It is vital for example that the gold is available for the investor and this can involve covenants or trusts.

"The Euromarkets are capricious. Gold is the flavour of the month. 'It'll fizzle out if currencies settle,'" one analyst said.

Bankers are constantly trying to work out new attractions to lure buyers to Eurobonds, which to a large extent have made big loans syndicated, among banks redundant.

Iran to sell 2m tons of crude oil to Syria

TEHRAN (OPECNA) — Syria is to buy two million tons of Iranian light crude this year under a renewed oil cooperation agreement first initiated in 1982.

The new accord, due to expire in 10 years' time, was signed during a visit to Iran by Syrian minister of oil and mineral wealth, Dr. Ghazi Al Durubi.

Petroleum Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh, who signed for Iran, said his country was ready to supply Syria with as much oil as it needed. He stressed that there were "no restrictions" on Iranian oil sales to Syria.

Sales under the new accord would be on a cash basis and in line with the OPEC reference price for crude, he added.

Dr. Al Durubi, who left here at the weekend, said on arrival back in Damascus that the new agreement would enable Iran to meet Syria's refinery needs for light crude.

The agreement also provided for the exchange of oil expertise between the two countries.

Dr. Al Durubi spent two weeks in Iran at the head of a delegation comprising senior officials from the ministries of oil, economy and foreign trade.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Atef Sedki held talks with his top economic advisers last week amid signs the government would soon announce steps to streamline Egypt's multi-tier foreign exchange rate system and the other reforms.

Attending the meeting at the central bank were its governor, Mr. Salah Hamid, Economy Minister Youssri Mustapha and other senior officials.

The measures are expected to include setting up a committee of banks to fix a daily floating rate for the Egyptian pound.

The anticipated reforms are part of Egypt's bid for International Monetary Fund (IMF) standby credits of up to \$300 million a year over three years and rescheduling by Western creditor governments of its \$38.6 billion debt.

The central bank now sets a dollar rate against the pound daily. It currently stands at around 1.36 pounds, against about 2.16 on the unofficial but tolerated free market.

Bankers said last week they expected the new committee of banks to set daily rates between these two.

The government was also likely to raise local interest rates by two per cent to bring more liquidity to the banking system, the government-controlled weekly newspaper Akhbar Al Yom said Friday.

On Wednesday, it raised prices of diesel and some other transport fuels, as demanded by the IMF and the World Bank, in what diplomats saw as a sign that the planned reform package was going into effect.

The ambassador did not specify industrial assistance the Soviet Union will provide.

Canada calls for special deals for poorest debtor countries

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (R) — The governor of the Bank of Canada last week called for special treatment for the world's poorest debtor countries, including some debt forgiveness and outright grants for development.

Mr. John Crow told a meeting of regional central bank heads that assistance to the most impoverished nations must be highly concessional, given their development prospects.

"These are countries where resources are at their scarcest, that have no real means of improving their position and no prospect in the foreseeable future of being able to service the heavy debt burden which many carry," he said.

Mr. Crow pointed to Canada's aid to sub-Saharan countries of Africa as an example of the kind of development assistance industrialised nations could provide.

Pineapple output expected to rise

WASHINGTON (AP) — World pineapple production is rising, the Agriculture Department reports. Commercial production in 1987 is forecast at more than 5.5 million tonnes, a three per cent increase from last year. Thailand is expected to remain the leading producer with a crop of more than 1.78 million tonnes, up nine per cent from last year's weather-damaged harvest of 1.64 million tonnes.

The pineapple crop in the Philippines is expected to be about 1.67 million tonnes, a three per cent increase from last year due to a sharp increase in acreage. Pineapple production in the United States was forecast at 589,670 tonnes, slightly more than last year's 586,850 tonnes.

"New plantings (in the United States) are increasing but at a slow rate," the report said. "The industry seems to have stabilised, with the emphasis shifting toward production of fruit for fresh consumption."

Favourable weather conditions and an expanded harvest area are expected to boost Mexico's 1987 crop to 306,000 tonnes, up five per cent from last year.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese pound plunged to an all-time low against the dollar in Khartoum's thriving black market Sunday ahead of talks later this week with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on reforming Sudan's troubled economy.

Bankers said rumours and unconfirmed press reports of a possible devaluation of the pound against the dollar dramatically increased demand for the U.S. currency.

Dealers said the dollar was bought Sunday for 6.2 pounds, 0.15 pounds more than Saturday's rates.

The official exchange rate has been fixed at 2.50 pounds since February 1985 when Sudan devalued its currency against the dollar by 48 per cent.

Bankers said rumours in Khartoum that the government planned to lift regulations on badly-debted imports for industry could also have boosted demand for the dollar.

Private sector imports are now channelled through a government committee set up 15 months ago. Bankers said it was running short of foreign currency due to a sharp decline in remittances through the banking sector from Sudanese working abroad.

Because of stringent import regulations, black market dollars are used largely to buy consumer goods smuggled from neighbouring countries such as Egypt, Kenya, Zaire and Ethiopia.

Black market dollars traded around 5.5 pounds since January but have made steady gains

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Sudan unable to service all debts, minister says

KHARTOUM (R) — Finance Minister Beshir Omar said in remarks published Monday that Sudan was unable to service all its debts and urged cancellation of at least some debts owed by African countries hit by drought.

"In principle, we agree to pay as not to be a country unworthy of loans. But in reality we cannot pay all these debts from our limited resources," he told Al-Ayam newspaper.

Sudan, a vast and impoverished country of 23 million people, has a foreign debt of \$10.6 billion and an annual servicing liability of nearly \$1 billion.

It has set aside \$200 million in the year to June 30 to service debts, mainly to creditors bailed from giving fresh loans to recipients in arrears, foreign economists here say.

Mr. Omar told the newspaper: "This is not a situation in which we are alone. It is a problem facing 'Third World' countries."

"We demand that debts of African countries south of the Sahara be forgiven because of the drought they have gone through. We demand this at least for government loans," he said.

"For other debts, we demand that interest be abolished and agreement (reached) on a reasonable grace period and a long-term rescheduling of payments," Mr. Omar added.

Economic sources in Khartoum say 23 per cent of Sudan's total foreign debt is owed to Western government creditors in the so-called Paris Club, 21 per cent to commercial banks and 32 per cent to governments of Eastern Bloc and Arab countries. Most of the remainder is owed to multilateral sources.

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against the pound since last week. Besides the official and black market rates, Sudan has a rate of four pounds to the dollar for remittances and foreign visitors.

The latest fall in the pound followed a statement on Saturday night on the Omdurman radio that the unification of Sudan's multi-tier exchange system would top the agenda when talks begin on Saturday with the IMF.

The IMF, which declared Sudan ineligible for fresh loans last year, wants Khartoum to devalue its currency to stimulate exports and attract more remittances from the estimated one million Sudanese employed abroad, mainly in Gulf Arab states.

It also wants Sudan to reduce its budget deficit and money supply, lift subsidies on basic goods, introduce a more efficient tax system and privatise loss-making state-owned enterprises.

In return, Sudan would receive the IMF's go-ahead to reschedule interest payments on \$10.6 billion of foreign debt and clear \$450 to \$500 million owed to the IMF.

Mr. Omar said in an interview published on Friday that devaluing the pound would raise the country's import bill, running at a billion dollars a year, and hit Sudanese with low incomes.

He also rejected the lifting of subsidies, saying the IMF had agreed to discuss an economic plan prepared by Sudanese economists.

The plan, which would take effect over four years, would curb government expenditure, increase state revenues and reduce the budget deficit, estimated at 2.86 billion pounds (\$1.14 billion) for the fiscal year ending on June 30.

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YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Difficult influences are in effect if you try to force your special aptitudes, but tonight conditions start to upswing and it is time for social and romantic activity.

Rebels threaten as army votes early in Philippine poll

Aquino criticises delay in U.S. arms supply

MANILA (R) — The Communist New People's Army (NPA) threatened Monday to retaliate against selected army officers and politicians for what it called harassment and intimidation of leftist candidates in next week's Philippine congressional elections.

The rebel army said in a statement it would not tolerate what it called "attacks on the people" in the final run-up to the May 11 poll. Leftist groups called for troops to be confined to barracks on polling day.

The retaliation threat came as police in Dagupan, north of the capital, said the campaign manager of a centrist candidate had been shot dead — the 39th death directly linked to Monday's election.

Troops were on alert in the far north locos region where the military shut down Laoag airport to all flights until after the election, amid reports that deposed President Ferdinand Marcos would try to return to his former stronghold from exile in Hawaii.

The army said the airport would stay shut until May 12. Soldiers at checkpoints on main roads in the area were searching travellers for weapons, a spokes-

man told Reuters.

Earlier President Corason Aquino lashed out at her U.S. allies for delays in supplying military equipment vital in the army's fight against the rebels in the 18 year-old Communist insurgency.

Mrs. Aquino, who also criticised the ability of her own troops, said Washington appeared to expect the Philippine army to fight its "teeth and hands".

On Mrs. Aquino's threatened second front, government negotiators hastily set up a meeting with Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari after talks between the two sides stalled in Manila.

They said they would fly to Mr. Misuari's jungle headquarters on the Sulu Islands in the extreme south of the country.

Muslim officials said the talks on their demands for autonomy over the southern third of the

country were deadlocked and predicted the dash to see Mr. Misuari would fail.

Chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez told reporters: "We will produce a miracle."

The National Capital Region Partisan Front of the Underground Communist Army, which directs the feared "Sparrow Unit" assassination squads, said it would "not hesitate to take punitive measures" against politicians and army officers harassing left wing candidates.

The alliance for new politics, dominated by the leftist Partido Ng Bayan, blamed army and vigilante units for killing 19 of its candidates and workers in the campaign for a two-house congress.

Despite the deaths, analysts have called the campaign for the Philippines' first genuinely free election in almost 20 years, remarkably free of the violence which is endemic in the country's politics.

The military meanwhile said an estimated 50,000 troops in barracks around the country lined up as absentee voters Monday — the first time absentee voting has been permitted in the Philippines.

The voting was restricted to troops posted outside the towns and cities in which they are registered and ended criticism that as much as one-third of the country's 150,000-strong regular military had been disenfranchised.

Absentee voting, common in many countries, was introduced by the Philippines' new constitution despite concerns that it would make multiple ballots by "flying voters" hard to police.

Mrs. Aquino's rebuke to her major ally followed complaints by senior American officials that actions by Congress in Washington were hurting Manila's effort against the Communists.

The Congress recently slashed military aid allocation by about \$50 million.

"Our principal military supplier should not expect our brave soldiers to fight the insurgents with our teeth and our hands," she told troops at an airbase in Manila.

Defence Secretary Rafael Ileto, who with Armed Forces Chief General Fidel Ramos sat with Mrs. Aquino as she criticised aspects of her own soldiers' performance, pledged after the speech the military would "work harder."

Dalida's family confirms suicide

PARIS (AP) — Dalida, the sultry Egyptian-born singer, actress and former Miss Egypt who first won fame in France for her song Bambino in 1954, was found dead in her Paris apartment from an apparent overdose of barbiturates. She was 54.

The singer's body was found by a friend, who notified emergency medical services. The family confirmed the suicide, saying she left a note which read: "Life is unbearable, pardon me."

Dalida, whose real name was Yolande Gigliotti, had been an entertainment success in France, Europe and the Middle East for more than 30 years. More than 85 million of her records have been sold around the world and her repertoire included more than 400 songs in French, 200 in Italian and 200 in other languages.

"She suffered from loneliness, and above all from not having any children," said Josephine Azagra, a neighbour who lives near Dalida's home on Rue d'Orchamps in Paris' Montmartre District.

"I saw her 10 days ago, she was very lonely," said television host Guy Lux, one of a crowd of friends and fans who went to the apartment where she had lived for the past 24 years.

Though she had not been seen in a Paris music hall since 1981, but she continued to sing around the world. Her last performance was Wednesday in Antalya, Turkey.

Dalida's last film was the Sixth Day by Egyptian director Youssef Chahine, the Arab World's best known filmmaker, in 1986. She was well known in the Middle East and performed there frequently.

Dalida was born to Italian parents on Jan. 17, 1933 in Cairo. Her father, Pietro Gigliotti, was a violinist with the Cairo Opera. She worked as a secretary in an import-export company in Cairo from 1951 until 1954 when she



Dalida

was elected Miss Egypt and took the name Dalida. She met a young French artistic director, Lucien Morisse, who helped turn her into a star.

Moving to France in 1954, she became an almost immediate hit with Bambino, the French version of an American song. From then on, it was one success after another.

In 1955, she made her film debut in the Mask Of Tutankhamen, something less than a cinema classic.

From then on it was money, fame, cabaret and music hall appearances, including the Olympia in Paris, Carnegie Hall in New York, Egypt and Italy, and a succession of successful records including Gondolier, Besame Mucho, Zorba, Les Enfants Du Pire, Porto Fino, Petit Homme, El Cordobes, El Venet D'Avoir 18 Ans, Gigi L'Amoroso and Pares, Pares, a duet with Alain Delon.

Notable films were Un Verre Et Une Cigarette (1954), Rapt Au Deuxieme Bureau (1958), Parlez Moi D'Amour (1960), L'Inconnue De Hong Kong (1963) and Menage A L'Italienne (1964).

The brutal death of Dalida reminds us that the solitude of the artist really exists," said French Culture Minister Francois Leotard.

India's Haryana state election set for June 17

NEW DELHI (R) — State assembly elections in Haryana state, which lies between New Delhi and Punjab, will be held on June 17, the election commission announced Monday.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party holds a slender majority in the Hindu-dominated state and whether the party can retain it is seen as an important test of its standing and Mr. Gandhi's popularity in its traditional heartland.

The Haryana poll could also provide a key to ending the strife in neighbouring Sikh-majority Punjab.

Analysts believe that once Congress was assured of control in Haryana for the next five years, it would be able to make

enough concessions in Punjab to turn ordinary Sikhs against violence.

These concessions are contained in a 1985 accord between New Delhi and Punjab which has yet to be implemented. Most opposition parties in Haryana regard the accord as a sell-out and want to abandon it despite the danger of a Sikh backlash.

The election commission said nomination papers for the 90 seats at stake must be filed by May 25. The major opposition to Congress is expected to come from the Lok Dal and Bharatiya Janata Party which, if they can buy their differences, could oust the ruling party for the first time in the state.

Gandhi, Singh set to clash

NEW DELHI (R) — A denial by India's president that he planned to topple Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has failed to quash speculation of a looming power struggle between them, politicians said Monday.

President Zail Singh took the highly unusual step Sunday of issuing a statement denying press reports that he might dismiss Mr. Gandhi.

Politicians and commentators doubt whether the denial spells an end to the three-month constitutional tussle between Mr. Gandhi and the wily Sikh head of state.

An indication of the state of relations will come on May 7 when parliament is scheduled to end its current session.

If Mr. Gandhi and his ruling Congress (I) Party seek an extension of parliament it will show that a battle with Mr. Singh is imminent, a Congress leader told Reuters.

An extension would enable Congress, which enjoys overwhelming majorities in both houses, to reinstate Mr. Gandhi quickly if Mr. Singh ordered his removal.

Norway criticises U.K. over pollution

LONDON (R) — Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland accused Britain of polluting its neighbours with acid rain caused by British power stations and of being too slow to realise that something needs to be done.

"The electricity bill in Britain is partly covered by the Norwegian nature being destroyed or other countries' nature being destroyed," Ms. Brundtland told a BBC radio programme.

"Instead of putting on a five per cent increase in your electricity bill to pay the total cost, you are sending the rest of that bill to

other countries," she added. A spokesman for Britain's Environment Department told Reuters: "The government is aware of the country's reputation and is taking positive steps to rectify it."

The Norwegian leader was speaking from Oslo on an international call-in programme in which she answered questions on environment and pollution from callers in Zimbabwe, Switzerland, Israel, Italy, Hong Kong, France and Ireland.

Ms. Brundtland, speaking after publication of a report called "our common future" by the

Geneva-based World Commission on Environment and Development which she chairs, renewed calls for international cooperation to save the environment.

"No nation can really say that we are not ready to cooperate for the common future," she said.

"This is the kind of atmosphere and development in international cooperation that we need and this is where we feel that Britain is one of several countries that has been too slow in realising this obvious concern and obvious need," she added.

Speaking of the religious wars that swept over Europe after the reformation and of early missionary work in America, the Pontiff said:

"What direction would history have taken, what missionary opportunities would have presented themselves for the new world if it had been possible to bridge the differences that existed then and clarify the points of contention?"

He urged Christians to give up "reciprocal condemnation" and said that "we never tired on the road leading to our common Lord."

Augsburg, 90 kilometres north of the Bavarian capital of Munich, was founded in 15 B.C. by a relative of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. It is, along with Trier and Cologne, one of the most ancient of cities in Germany.

Pope calls for Christian unity

AUGSBURG, West Germany (AP) — Pope John Paul II on Monday denounced popular ideas of women's liberation and said the lessons of Europe's devastating religious wars should inspire Christian unity.

The message was a sharp shift in tone for the Pontiff, who had spent the first four days of his West German visit condemning the Nazi era and defending the role of the church in Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

The Roman Catholic leader, on the last day of his 34th foreign trip, urged young women to be cautious of current feminist movements.

"Dear sisters, today a great deal is being said about liberation and emancipation, and special importance attaches to these justified interests."

"But is the person who does nothing but shake off commandments and obligations really free?" he asked nuns and young women active in religious work.

Several hundred women filled the ornate Augsburg Cathedral for the Pontiff's speech.

Let me ask you dear young people: Don't let yourselves be led astray by false or short-sight-

ed freedom," he told the women. At a later speech consecrating a new seminary, Pope John Paul II praised the role of "women and others" in preparing their children for possible religious vocations.

The Pope spoke in German, as he has throughout the trip. He also returned to the theme of Christian unity, which he had raised on Sunday by suggesting it is necessary that "schisms and religious wars ... occur in order to lead the church to reflect on and renew its original values."

Speaking to top-ranking Protestant and Eastern Orthodox leaders at an ecumenical service late Monday morning, the Pope delivered a strong call for Christian unity and alluded to Augsburg's role as a centre of reformation activity in the 16th century.

"If we want to obey the lord's command and be his witness, we will have to do everything we can to increase our oneness," the Pope said.

He spoke at length of an Augsburg meeting between Protestant reformation leader Martin Luther and the Vatican envoy who tried to reconcile differences

COLUMNS 7&8

Pop group releases 'safe sex' record

SYDNEY (R) — An Australian pop group released a record Roll It On, Robbie, promoting condoms as a way of avoiding acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). The group Redgum, advises young people not to take any chances with AIDS and sex condoms when having sex. The chorus of the upbeat song sums up the message: "Roll it on, Robbie, slip it on, Sam, if you want to play it safe, if you want to be secure, remember prevention is better than a cure." Officials of the Roman Catholic Church failed to have the record banned. "The song glorifies sexual promiscuity," said Ron McKern, spokesman for the church in Queensland.

2 East Germans escape to West

BAD BRAMSTEDT, West Germany (AP) — Two East German men escaped in a small rowing boat along the Baltic coast to West Germany, police said Sunday. The pair, identified only as truck drivers aged 23 and 24, made their escape late Saturday, following the coastline in the dark, according to a police statement. It was not clear how they were able to avoid East German patrol boats that normally cruise the coast and police declined to give further details of the escape. The escapes brought to 32 the number of East Germans who have fled to West Germany so far this year.

Siamese twins enter college

COMPTON, California (AP) — Siamese twins who are joined at the head have left the rowing boat along the Baltic coast to West Germany, police said Sunday. The pair, identified only as truck drivers aged 23 and 24, made their escape late Saturday, following the coastline in the dark, according to a police statement. It was not clear how they were able to avoid East German patrol boats that normally cruise the coast and police declined to give further details of the escape. The escapes brought to 32 the number of East Germans who have fled to West Germany so far this year.

Woman jailed for life for smuggling

DHAKA (R) — A Bangladeshi woman was sentenced by a special tribunal to life imprisonment for trying to smuggle \$85,000 worth gold into the country, legal officials said Monday. They said Hezera Begum was arrested on May 19, 1986, after Dhaka airport customs officers seized 48 small gold bars from the false bottom of her suitcase as she arrived from Dubai. Judge Rezwan Ali also ordered Begum, mother of seven children, to pay a fine of \$350 or suffer hard labour for two years. She is the first woman jailed for life since President Hossain Mohammad Ershad ordered a crackdown on gold smuggling late last year.

Steward wins 1st vertical marathon

SINGAPORE (R) — A Singapore Airlines steward sprinted 1,336 steps up the world's tallest hotel in seven minutes and 20 seconds to win what was billed as the world's first vertical marathon here Sunday. Kenneth Keng, 34, beat 200 others in the race up the 73-storey, 742-foot (226 metre) Westin Stamford Hotel, held to raise funds for charity. Helen Gilbey, a 31-year-old physical education lecturer, won the women's event in nine minutes and four seconds.

Condom boutique opens in Amsterdam

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — The Golden Fleece Condomerie, touted as this liberal nation's first condom boutique, opened its doors to what its proprietors expect will be a mainly female clientele. The owners, who gave their names as Marijke and Ricky, said they believe women are now willing to buy condoms, which traditionally have been bought by men. Condoms are easily obtainable in Dutch pharmacies and pornography shops, but the condomerie's owners believe their boutique atmosphere is more likely to promote the idea of selective shopping for the prophylactics for birth control or disease prevention. "Women dislike pornography shops, so they won't go there to buy condoms. The clinical atmosphere of a pharmacy is an obstacle for many women, too," Marijke told the Associated Press. "Here they can just walk in and look for what they want and ask our advice." Although neither Marijke nor her partner explicitly link their venture to AIDS prevention, the opening coincided with the first month of a government-sponsored campaign to fight the spread of the disease.

Smoking may contribute to impotence

NEW YORK (AP) — Preliminary evidence suggests that smoking may contribute to the development of impotence in men, perhaps by disrupting blood flow in small arteries, a researcher says. An examination of some 200 impotent men found they were more likely than others to be smokers and to have evidence of "impaired blood flow to the penis," a possible cause of impotence, said Dr. Alvaro Morales, chairman of the Urology Department at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. "It is by no means conclusive evidence," Morales said at the annual meeting of the American Association of Sex Educators, Counsellors and Therapists. "But I think the evidence is there." Eighty-one per cent of the impotent men were current or former smokers, compared with 58 per cent of men selected from the general population. Dr. Morales found. Smoking has been thought a possible cause of impotence since the turn of the century, Dr. Morales said. But evidence of the relationship has been lacking until the last few years, when several researchers have found in a handful of patients that stopping smoking can lead to return of sexual function, he said. At least half of all cases of impotence are thought to be due to some physical problem rather than to a psychological difficulty, Dr. Morales said. "And about half of the cases with physical causes are believed to be the result of a problem in the blood vessels that supply the penis," he said. These are the cases that could be aggravated by smoking.

Einstein letters shed light on relativity

NEW YORK (AP) — Newly discovered letters between Albert Einstein and the woman who became his first wife exposed the joy and pain of their troubled romance and the excitement of mathematical discovery, according to a report published Sunday. The letters were found during efforts to collect material for the collected papers of Albert Einstein, to be published May 22 by Princeton University Press, the New York Times reported. Mileva Maric, a Serb four years older than Einstein, served as a "sounding board" for Einstein's ideas about physics, according to John Stachel, a professor of physics at Boston University who is editing the papers. At 20, Einstein wrote a letter in which he anticipated his first theory of relativity, published six years later, the Times said. He wrote that while visiting the Swiss town of Aarau "a good idea occurred to me about a way of investigating how a body's relative motion with respect to the luminiferous ether affects the velocity of propagation of light in transparent bodies. Also a theory on this matter occurred to me, which seems to be highly probable." He was referring to the then-accepted notion that space was filled with an invisible medium, "luminiferous ether," an idea he said he had doubts about. The letters also reflect the despair the couple felt about Einstein's mother's refusal to accept the woman as a suitable match.

Mozambique captures rebel base

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Mozambican troops backed by soldiers from neighbouring Zimbabwe and Tanzania have captured the main anti-government guerrilla base in Mozambique, the Portuguese News Agency LUSA reported Sunday.

The agency quoted unidentified military sources in the capital of Maputo as saying government troops seized the Morrumbala rebel base in central Mozambique last week.

The sources said soldiers searching the area were still finding the bodies of rebels belonging to Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), also known as Renamo, LUSA reported. But there was no precise indication of casualties.

"We lost some comrades but the number of enemy dead is

much greater," one military source was quoted as saying.

Calls to rebel spokesmen in Lisbon went unanswered Sunday night.

Renamo has been fighting since 1977 to topple the Marxist Mozambican government. The guerrilla war is blamed as the main cause of economic disaster in the former Portuguese colony, where relief organisations estimate more than three million people face famine.

LUSA said the Morrumbala Base, in central Zambezia province, 50 kilometres from the border with Malawi, had been the rebels' bush headquarters since September 1985.

In that month, government troops captured Renamo's previous headquarters, known as "Casa Banana" in the Gorongosa

National Park, north of Morrumbala.

The agency quoted a former Portuguese hostage of the rebels who was not identified, as saying there had been about 5,000 guerrillas at the Morrumbala Base in 1985.

Troops from Zimbabwe and Tanzania fight alongside the Mozambican army, chiefly to protect from guerrilla attack the key vital transport routes linking landlocked southern African countries to Mozambique's Indian Ocean ports.

South Africa denies Mozambican charges that it supports the rebels to destabilise the country and force its black-ruled neighbours to trade through South Africa. Malawi also rejects allegations it helps Renamo.

Nixon Watergate papers being released to public

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AP) — Nearly 13 years after Richard Nixon resigned the presidency, the first of his Watergate papers were readied for public view Monday, purged of documents he thinks involve personal privacy.

The first release includes the White House files of John Ehrlichman, who spent 18 months in prison as a Watergate cover-up conspirator, and of John Dean, who gave the first detailed information about the affair to federal prosecutors and served four months.

The documents chosen for Monday's release at a national archives warehouse total 252,000 pages, one sixth of the 1.5 million-page cache the Nixon administration itself set aside as "special files." The special files contain the most sensitive documents, those involving Watergate.

After the archives gave a required 90-day notice that the files would be made public, Mr. Nixon's lawyers filed 3,100 pages of objections to the release of 15,000 documents.

Investigators look into Bush's links with contra arms supply

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran-contra investigators are looking into Vice President George Bush's links to the supply of weapons to Nicaraguan rebels, including a record of involvement by a former CIA agent who is now a top Bush aide.

Reporting to Congress on the progress of his investigation, independent counsel Lawrence Walsh listed the office of the vice president as among the targets of his ongoing criminal investigation.

He said the inquiries were "proving fruitful." While there have been questions about the vice president's role, only recently has the focus sharpened on Mr. Bush and his aides.

Wary that Mr. Bush's 1988 presidential chances could be wrecked by the Iran-contra affair, the vice president's political advisers insist that they do not have a problem as congressional hearings open Tuesday.

But Donald Gregg, the CIA agent who is Mr. Bush's national security adviser, as well as two of Mr. Gregg's own aides, bring the investigative trail into the office of the vice president.

In addition, Mr. Bush, himself a former CIA director, has had meetings with key figures in both the clandestine arms sales to Iran and the private aid network for supplying the Contras.

Moreover, Mr. Bush attended the daily intelligence briefings for President Ronald Reagan where a number of key decisions in the case were made, including the one at which the secret Iran initiative was formally approved.

Gregg acknowledges that in December 1984 he recommended his friend from his days in Vietnam, Cuban-born former CIA agent Felix Rodriguez, as an on-the-scene adviser to the Salvadoran Air Force at Ilopango Air Base.

Gregg refused to be interviewed for this story. He has maintained there is evidence fired National Security Council (NSC) aide Lt. Col. Oliver North recruited Rodriguez into the network providing support the Contras, and that he was unaware of that involvement.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SEARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South with both sides 60 on score you hold:

♠Q83 ♣7 ♠K654 ♠KQ762

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1♣ 1♠ 2♥ 2♠

What do you bid now?

A—Don't bid two spades, your hand is too strong for such action and partner might think you are bidding just to prevent the opponents from completing the rubber. Jump to three spades. Partner won't play you for more than this, since with a very good hand you would have cue-bid three hearts.

Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠7 ♠A10932 ♠KQJ63 ♠K5

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

1♠ Pass Pass ?

What action do you take?

A—If you overcalled with either two or three hearts, you have not valued your hand correctly. A reopening bid of two hearts could be made on a far weaker hand than you have, and a jump to three hearts misstates the quality of that suit and shuts out diamonds as a possible contract. The correct action is to double, and then bid hearts if partner responds in clubs if you use Michaels cue-bids. This hand is perfect for it.

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠KQ98773 ♠A1065 ♠K2

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

Pass Pass 1♥ 2♣

What action do you take?

A—It is a close decision between a penalty double and a bid of two spades. The texture of your suit and the fact the opponents are not vulnerable suggest to us there might be a greater profit in trying for game. Certainly, if the opponents were vulnerable we would double.

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠AKQJ ♠772 ♠Q53 ♠A83

The bidding has proceeded:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass ?

What is your opening bid?

A—Regardless of whether or not we are playing five-card majors, we would open with one spade. Since partner is a passed hand, there is little chance for game. Therefore, we would not waste our time with prepared bids but would open in the suit we want led should the opponents buy the hand.

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠AQ95 ♠A87 ♠Q3 ♠KJ102

The bidding has proceeded:

South West North East

1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass

2♠ Pass 3♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

A—It is unclear whether partner is making a game try in diamonds or looking to no trump as a possible contract. In any event, you certainly want to be in game and the way to tell partner of this is to show your heart feature by bidding three hearts.

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K95 ♠J9 ♠652 ♠AKJ106</